TRIP TO AUSTRALIA July - Sept 1992

Crucial info: Dart Board should be 173 cm high (Bull's eye) and 2.73 m from the throwing line

27 July. Left BWI on United's 10:35 Flight to San Francisco via Chicago. Arrived in SF at ~ 1430. Spent the next several days conferring w. Bill Carmen (he will be delayed in his departure for several days, due to snags in his house-buying. He now plans to leave on Sunday, 9 Aug; will arrive in Perth on Tuesday, 11 Aug). Reviewed manuscript, bought supplies, etc.

1 Aug Left SFO on United #817 at 21:15. 2 hr layover in Honolulu, 2 hr. in Auckland, so didn't arrive in Sydney until ~ 09:30 on 3 July

3 Aug. Had a very close connection in Sydney (had to clear customs + immigration here, carry luggage to Australia Airlines desk - where I waited in line for ~ 25 min - then take shuttle bus from international terminal to domestic terminal. I made it with ~10 min. to spare; my bags didn't arrive in Perth until the next flight). 4½ hr. flight to Perth, with nice views of Mt. Kosciosko (much snow) and Mt. Gambier before we crossed the Great Australian Bight. Arrived in Perth at 14:40 local time, to rainy skies.

4 Aug Bought supplies, unpacked, et checked in at the CSIRO Lab.

J. F. Lynch
1992
Midland, WA

5 Aug. More organizing at CSIRO of Midland/Perth area.
Purchased specialized batteries for my Sennheiser microphone at:
SIOMAR BATTERY IND.
15 COLRAY ST.
Osborn Park
(N. of Perth – take Tonkin hwy to Morley Rd – W. to Main, S. to Scarborough Beach – Then W. on Frobisher to Colray, a short Cul-de-Sac street)
Also purchased an inexpensive cassette recorder for playbacks ($67.00), a butane refill unit for my portable soldering iron, more food etc.
Perry de Rebeira fixed me up with a bandy kit.

6 Aug Left Helena Valley at 10:00 and drove E to Kellerberrin. Weather still very unsettled – numerous showers separated by clearer conditions. Strong, gusty westerly winds.

I stopped briefly along the Avon R. in Northam. Not a tremendous amount of waterbird activity, but I noted 4-5 Australasian Grebe, ~10 EURASIAN COOT, 2 Pacific Black Duck, 2 Mute Swan. Welcome Swallows numerous over the river + grassy bank. Brown HE common in trees and shrubs.

Other spp seen along highway between Northam and Kellerberrin: White-faced Heron (1), Black-shouldered Kite (2), Nankeen Kestrel (2), Aust. Raven (many), Aust. Magpie (Sev.), Magpie-Lark (many), Galah (many), Pt. Lincoln Ringneck (many).

J.F. Lynch
1992

6 AUG - cont'd

LOTS of water in the salt-pan areas - I made a detour of ~15 km N. of the hwy, leaving via the Mt. ~~Eb~~ Ann Rd, and looping back to the hwy at ~~Cumberdin~~ Cumberdin. Huge areas of saltbush ponds and creeks (all flowing west), but practically devoid of waterbirds (a single White-faced Heron was the only exception). Willie Wagtails along rd, which went through mostly cleared country with most major patches of heath or woodland. Tree martins common also, and several groups of Black-faced Woodswallows seen.

7 AUG - Sunny, calm, cool morning (no frost last night).

I drove SW to the top of the rise at the middle of Weeds Reserve. Birds fairly active, and I heard or saw the following in the area around the cross-track on the S. side of the paved rd JUST NE of the crest: Magpie, Galah, Pr. Lincoln Parrot, Pallid Cuckoo, Yell-r. Thornbill, Weebill, Singing HE, Brown HE, White-eared HE, Grey Shrike-Thrush, Rufous Whistler, Western Warbler, Willie Wagtail, Common Bronzewing, Grey Butcherbird, Tree Martin, Yell-Th. Miner, Striated Pardalote, Bk-faced Cuckoo-Shrike, Aust. Raven, Crested Pigeon, Grey Fantail. Recorded a Grey Shrike-Thrush Song on a 30sec endless loop to use in playbacks.

Just SW of the cross-track there was a lot of v. active singing by Rufous Whistler. Investigation revealed that 2 unbanded ad ♂♂ were actively vying for supremacy

J. F. Lynch
1992

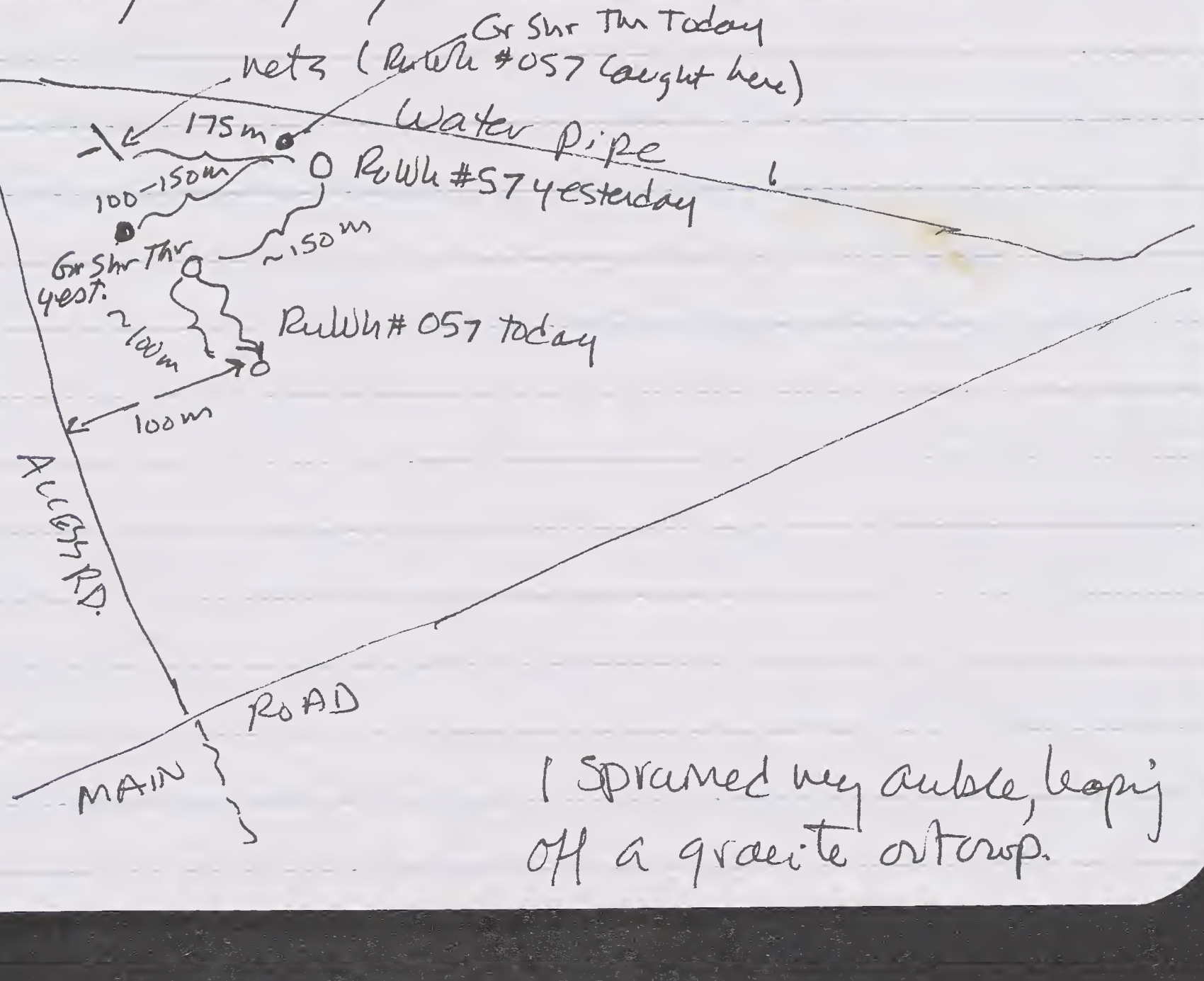
10 AUG – cont'd

In the P.M. Denis + Perry each set up 10 nets with Their EarthWatch volunteers. Conditions very windy, cold – & not much success. Then, at desk DAS caught 2 babblers, one of which I tagged

White-browed Babbler (retrap) # 056-93099 wave/net-rT.
Doodlakine Rd x Angle Rd
large-sized Transmitter # 015 (Setting 1-7-2.2)

Other spp seen here dur PM: Bk-sh Kite, Galah, Pt. Lincoln Ringneck, Weebill, 9r Fantail, W. Wagtail, White-b. Swallow, Tree Martin, Y-T Miner, Singing HE, W-br. Babbler, Br-headed HE, Red Wattlebird

11 AUG. I located Gr Shr Thrush and 2 RuWh in Covered reservoir area. Both had moved ~100m from yesterday's fixes, but were definitely hanging about the same area.




I sprained my ankle, leaping off a granite outcrop.

J.F. Lynch
1992

11 Ava (cont'd)

I drove to DAS banding site at corner Argyle Rd + Doodlakine Rd, where we had caught a Red Wattlebird. I put Transmitter #820 (lg.) on this bird - Initial setting was 3-12-1.5, which does not correspond to supposed tuning (should have been either CH 1-1-0 or 4-3-?). Signal was sharp & strong when I released bird, but I immediately lost the signal. I can't figure out what was going on - I tried sweeping through all the channels, but nothing worked.

I picked up the signal from Babbler #015 I tagged here yesterday - he was 225 m S. Jct. Argyle Rd along Doodlakine (E-side), nr. the S. end of dense brushy habitat that appears suitable for babblers.

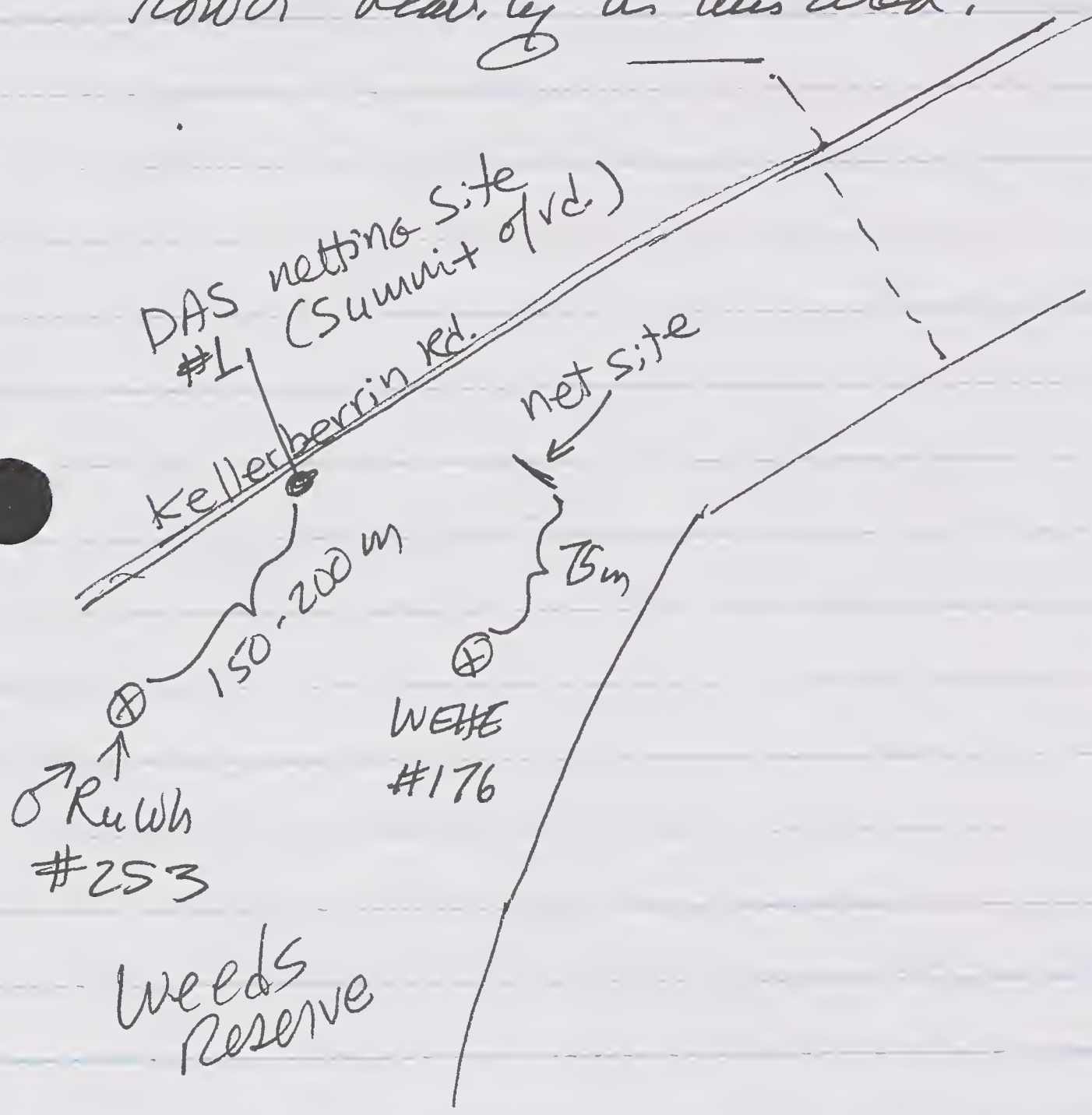
Two Banded Lapwings in paddock along Brown Rd between Mission and Doodlakine roads. Several Richard's Pipits along roads.

I stopped at the top of the crest of the main rd. in Weeds and searched for the RcWh and WETE I tagged in this area last week. Both were located, but had moved JUST SW of the crest, such that I couldn't get a signal until I started down that side.

The RcWh (#253) seems to have an enormous territory. Today I tracked him at least 150-200 m SW of DAS banding site #1 (his previous furthest point SW of netting site). This is well out into the Casuarina heath - w. very scattered clumps of small E. drummondi.

J.F. Lynch
1992
11 Aug – cont'd

The bird was right in the middle of the reserve – not near the main road or the paddock boundary. Activity sphere extends clear up to the cross track to the NE. The White-eared HE (#176) was closer to boundary site – 75-100m SSW in an area of mixed heath, low eucalypts. So far, this bird has always been found within 100m of banding site. *Hakea corioscoides* beginning to flower heavily in this area.




Visited DAS banding site #28 along Doodlakine Rd. N. of Brown Rd. Spotted ♂ RuWh banded Red / Blue-left Mauve/wht. – RT.
(originally banded at this site ~~on~~ in Nov '88) was called "female" at this time, so must have been less than 2 yrs. old.

J. F. Lynch
1992

12 August — Brown Rd. 2.8 km E. Jct. with Doodlakine Rd (EW #37E)

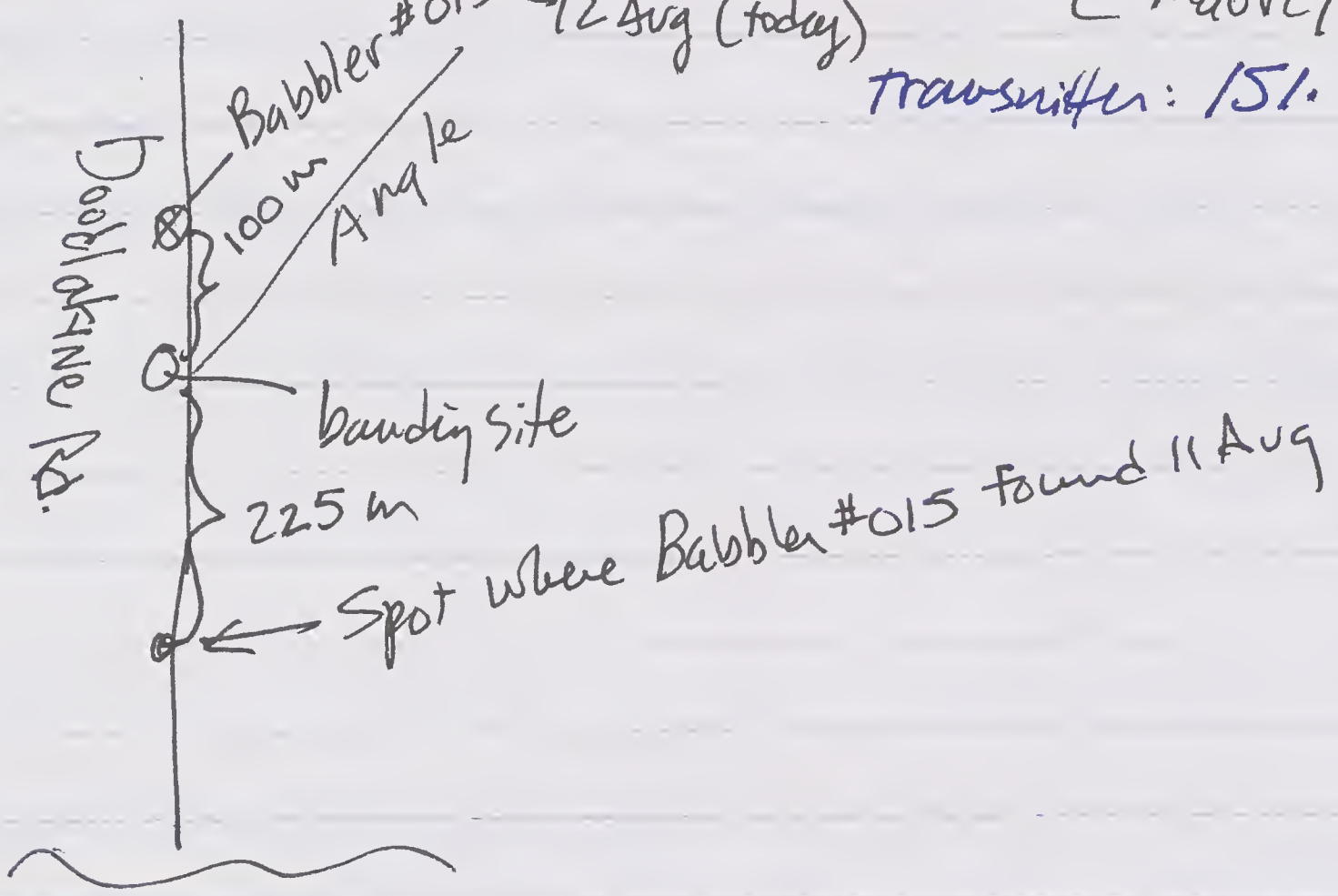
~9:30AM Perry de Rebeira & I were banding birds here. I used my tape to call in an adult ♂ Rufous Whistler. Transmitter #385 (Setting 3-10-3) (new bird) band #033-64569 (met/mauve-left; OR/Blue-right)

——— (note: babblers seen 0.8 km N. of dog leg S. of EW #32)

10:15 I drove to EW site #32 on Doodlakine Rd at Jct. with Angle Rd. Heard Grey Shrike Thrush calling — set up a net, put on a playback tape, and caught bird within ~3 min.

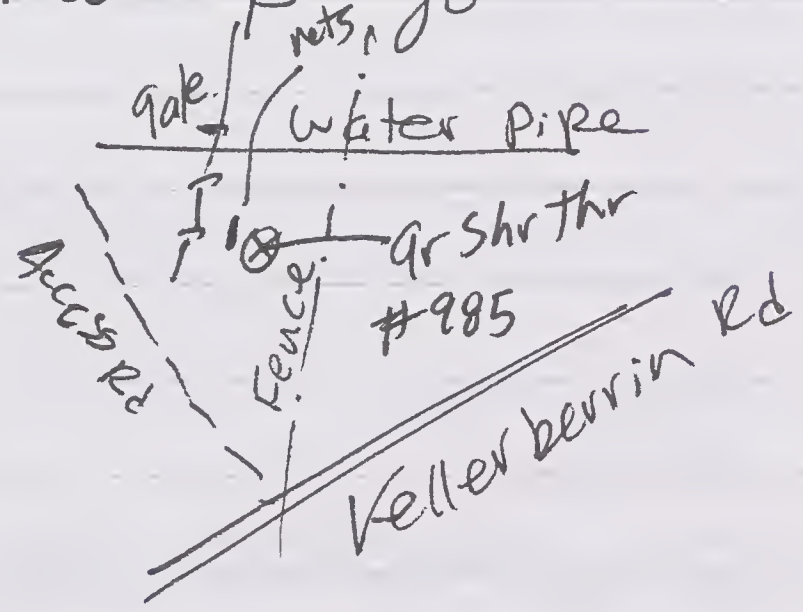
new capt — Banded #051-52399 {Lt. green/wh-left; Mauve/Metal-right

Transmitter: 151.220




Weeds Reserve — NW Corner - Covered Reservoir area

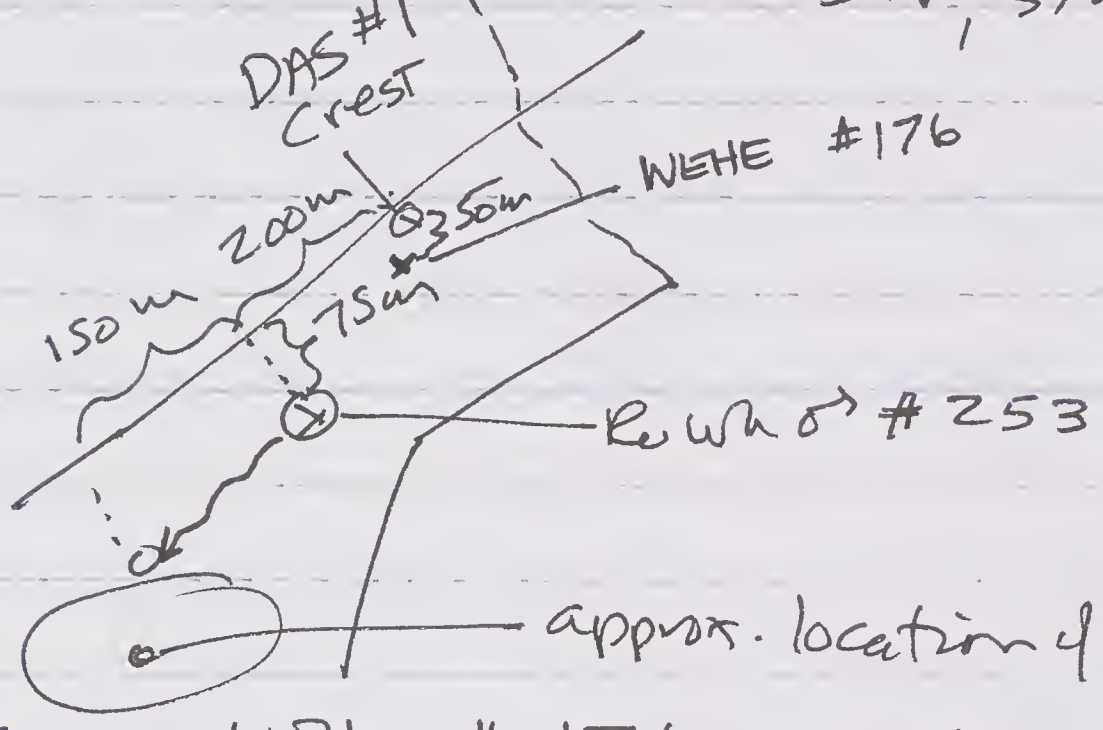
Gr Shr Thrush #985 located v. close to site where I'd set up my 2 nets + captured & Rufous a few days ago.



J.F. Reynolds
1992

12 AUG - cont'd

15:00 ♂ RuWh # 253 located ~75 S. of paved Rd, 200m SW of crest in weeds. Noted another ~150m SW, singing actively.




15:10 WEHE # 176 located in interior of weeds SW of crest in rd. ~50m SW of spot where ♂ RuWh #253 located on 10 Aug (i.e., DAS s.t. #1) (area of heath - E. drummondii, Casuarina scrub)

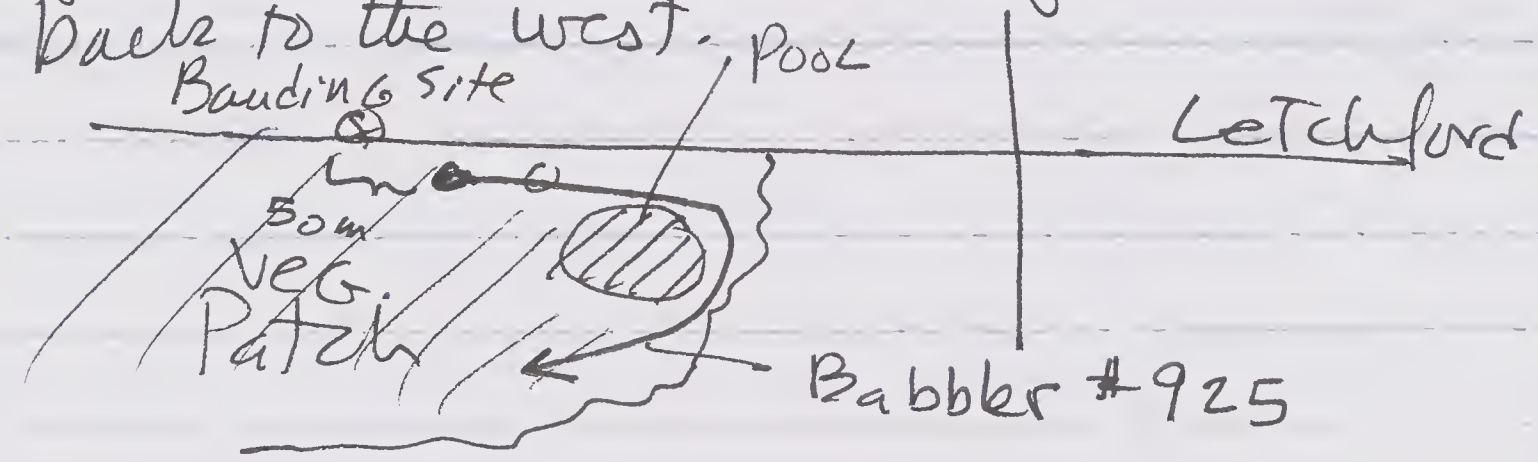
15:30 For the first time since I tagged him on 7 Aug 92 I detected ♂ RuWh #894. I didn't get a clear fix on the faint signal, but bird was in the interior of the reserve, SW of the crest by ≈ 300 - 400 m I would estimate.

16:30 I tagged a Babbler captured by DAS's crew at site on Hetchford Rd, 300m W. of Tray ring - Kellerberrin Rd (EW # 36)
150.925
Band #051-52400 (Mauve/wet-RT; green/green - left)
transmitter #925 (ch 1, B 3, f 5.0)

13 Aug Same location - another Babbler
Band # 051-72205
151.125 (Mauve/wet-RT; l. green/Mauve - left)
Transmitter #125 (ch 1, B 12, f 1.6)

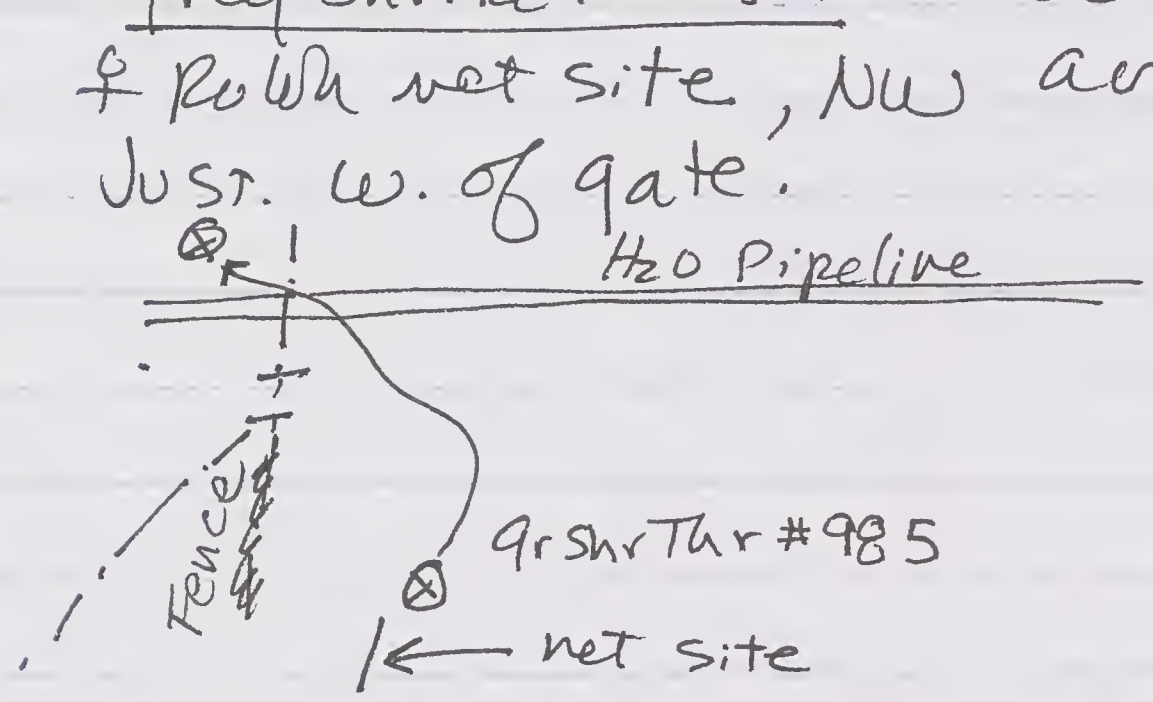
J. F. Lynch
1992

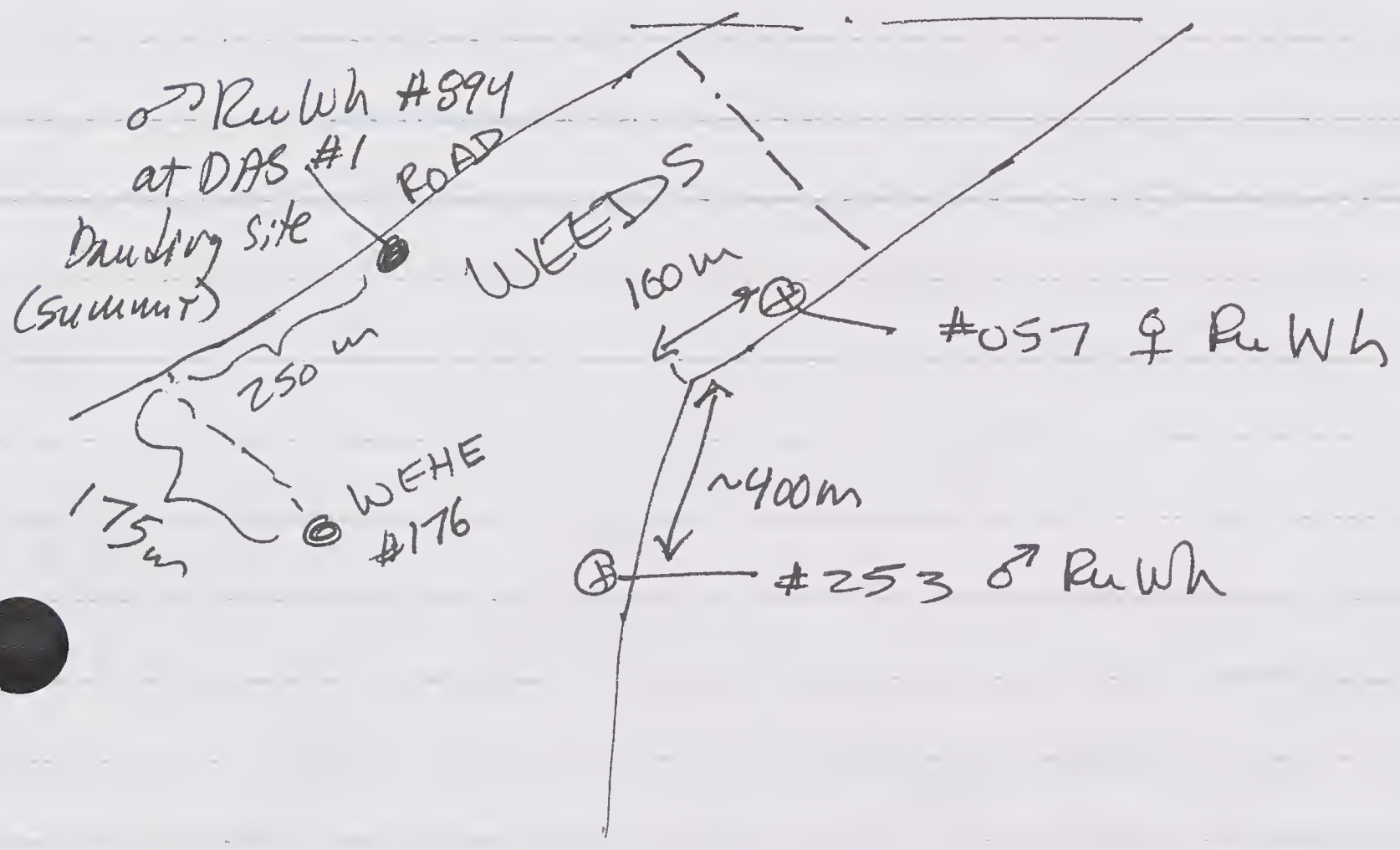
13 AOG - cont'd. I got a fix on Babbler # 925 (tagged here yesterday) on S. side of rd. nr. E. edge of patch - started ~ 50 m E. of banding site - moved E. ~ 100 m, circled small pond to the south edge of patch, Then moved back to the west.




Weeds Reserve - NW Corner (covered res. area)

Grey Shrike Thrush #985 followed from near & RuWh net site, NW across pipeline to a pt. Just. W. of gate.



J. Flynn
1992

13 Aug - cont'd
Drove into Midland to pick up Bill Carmen, stopping for a few minutes in Northam to sit by the Avon R. ~ ½ mi. W. of bridge. Lots of water birds: ~24 Mute Swan, ~50 Austr. Coot, ~20 Black Duck, ~12 Grey Teal, 2 Hardhead, 3 Austr. Pelican, 1 Silver Gull, 1 Little Pied Cormorant. Along banks were several Austr. Ravens (repeatedly chased by the Silver Gull), sev. Brown HE, Singing HE, Rufous Whistler, many Welcome Swallow OH.

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Picked up Bill at ~ 1515, and immediately drove back to Kellerberrin.

14 Aug. Patch along Letchford Rd ~ ½ way between Kellerberrin Rd. and Doodlakine Rd

Perry's group had good success netting today, and we put transmittors on 4 birds here!
recapt. White Browed Babbler Band #051-72106
left - met/mauve right - mauve/orange
Transmitter #162 (ca 2 - band 1 - freq. 3.5)

Rufous Whistler ♀? or imm.? (new capture)
left - met/mauve right - or/or
Band # 033-64571
Transmitter #834 (1-1-0.5)
(heavily streaked throat + breast)

Singing Honeyeater (new capture)
left - met./mauve rt - green/orange
Band # 033-64572
Transmitter # 945 (1-3-2.5)

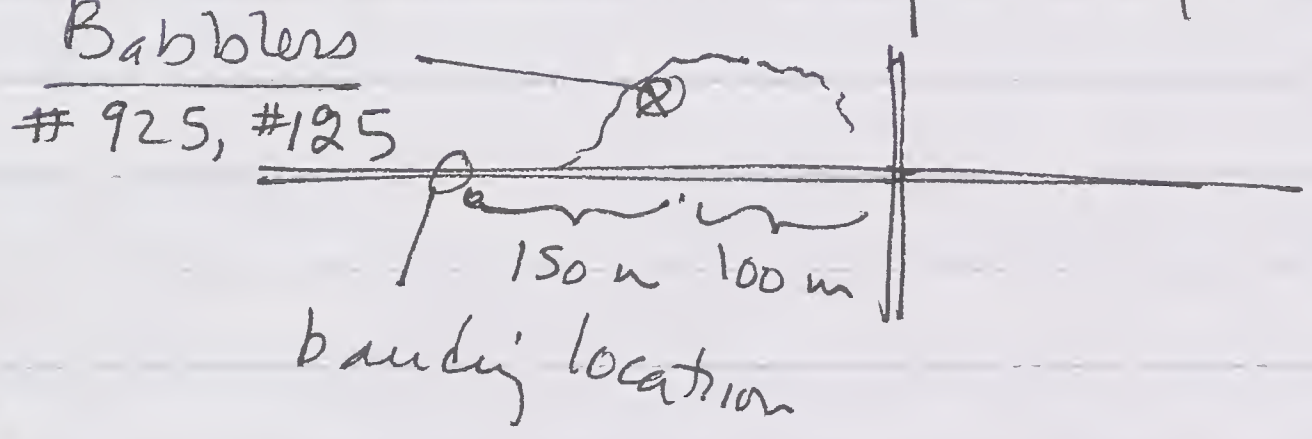
J. F. Lynch
1992

14 Aug - cont'd
Patch along Letchford Rd between Keller Rd & Doddaire

ad of Rufous Whistler (recapt.)
#033-64103
Transmitter #286 (Setting 2-6-2)

DAS was banding along Huandenning Rd, ~~last~~ 1 km N. of Keller Rd. Jct. We put transmitters on 2 Singing Honeyeaters here:
(New site #19)
recapt. Singing HE Band # 034-28861
Transmitter # 945 (Setting 1-4-3.5)
left - added - mauve/or rt - mauve/metal
new Singing HE Band # 034-28905
left - mauve/green rt - mauve/metal
transmitter # 854 (Setting 1-1-0)
released 10:20

Checked Babblers along Letchford Rd W. of Keller Rd
Both #925 and #125 in same group, found N. of rd in small patch ~150 m NE banding site (nr. well site) at N. edge of patch & ~100 m W. Jct. of Letchford Rd x Kellenberrin Rd



J.F. Lynch
1992

7 Aug  Weeds

between the Casuarina/Jam/Sandalwood woodland near the track and the Salmon gum/Wandoo/mallee woodland ~150 m SW of there — 2 birds repeatedly flew back and forth in close pursuit — loudly singing, facing off with stretch-bob displays that show the white breast to maximum advantage and (in at least one instance) tumbled attack in a low (~3m) tree.

I started to set up a mist net at the edge of the low woodland near the cross-track and caught one male Rufous Whistler before I'd even opened the net all the way!
I returned to the CSIRO cottage and fitted this guy (a 3+ ♂) with a transmitter:
#894 - Med. size - [150.894 mHz]
Band: 1, Ch: 2; freq. 3.7
numbered band #034-39501 (new)
color bands: met/WH-rT; Red/Red-left
measurements: flattened wing - 93 mm; head-bill - 35.4 mm
wt - 23.1 gm.

. . . .

I set up a second net ~200-250 m further to the SW, in the general area of the "dogleg" turn in the boundary of Woods, but closer to the main road than to the pasture side.
First location in mallee w. tall eucalypts attracted bird w. playback — he got into and out of net; I moved net ~100 m further SW into mallee and caught the same bird almost instantly (using playback).

J.F. Lynch
1992

7 Aug – Cont'd Weeds Reserve
This was almost certainly the second of
from the 2 I saw fighting earlier –
unbanded 3+ male netted at 1430 hrs.
transmitter (medium size) # 253 (151.253 mHz)
Settings: Band – 2, Ch – 5, Freq. – 0.7

numbered band (new) #034-39502
color bands met/wh-rT ; Red/wh-lft
flattened wing-98 ; hd-bill-38.0 ; wT – 26.2 gm
plumage worn – sl. molt on back.

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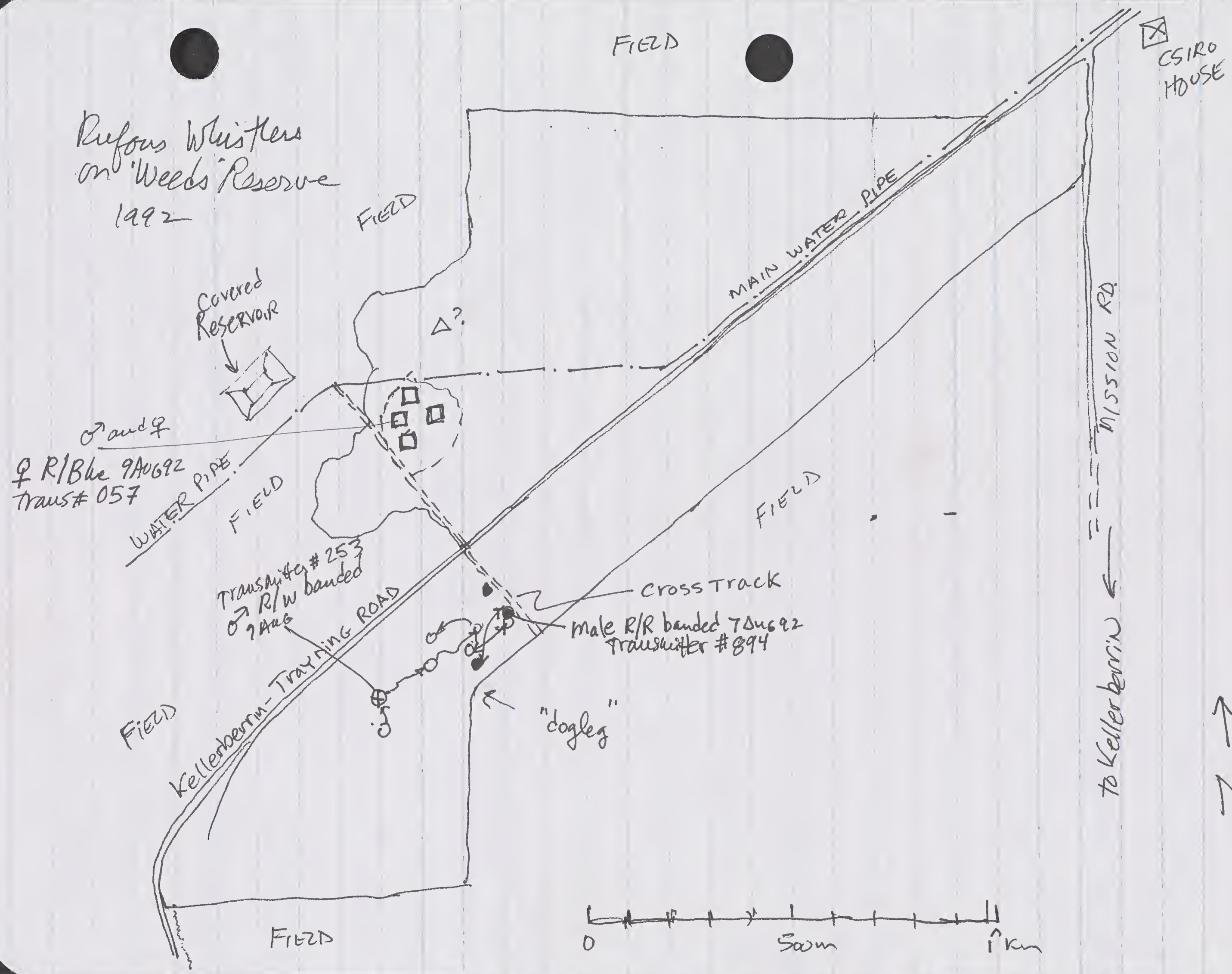
By the time I returned this bird to the site (1530 hrs) I had caught a White-eared Honeyeater in the same net (no playback).
This was a recap. of a bird first netted at Wimmera gate on 18 June 91, Then recaptured near This spot in Weeds on 21 Oct 91.
Band # 033-64313 (mauve/metal-lft)

I attached a medium-sized transmitter #176 (151.176 mHz)
Settings: Band 2, Ch. 2, Freq. 1.7

8 Aug. Cool cloudy mod. breeze. Rain started ~2 PM, became steady @ 3:30 PM.

I tried to locate the 3 birds I fitted with transmitters yesterday. RuWh # 894 could not be found in a fairly wide search from banding site #2, 300 m S to Crosstrack, NE from Crosstrack ~ 500 m to water pipe cut-in, along pipe W. to reservoir area, Thence back SE to the Crosstrack.

Rufous Whistlers on 'Weeds' Reserve
1992



J. F. Lynch
1992

WEEDS Reserve

8 AUG – cont'd

Only Waterthrushes seen or heard in this area were a pair just E. of the reservoir in the usual area around the debris-stream granite outcrops S. of the water pipe, and (possibly) a neighboring male that called briefly from just N. of the waterpipe in this same area.

I also found Ru Wh with transmitter #253 almost precisely at the banding site ~150m W. of the "dogleg" corner in Weeds. I followed this bird to the NE ~ 200m to the grove of lg. Salmon gums where I first saw this male and male #894 chasing and displaying yesterday. He then circled back toward the banding site - when I first picked this bird up this morning, he was ~50m SW of net location. This was about as far SW as I heard him yesterday also.

The ~~singing~~ White-eared HE turned up just S. of the banding site - moved around within a rather small radius (~75m). A second un-tagged White-eared HE was in the same area — maybe my bird's mate.

New birds seen today - sm. flock of Varied Sittellas in the area just E. of the reservoir on the N. side of the main rd - m. w. border of wooded area of "Weeds". Mixed flock w. Weebills and Y-R T-bills — Pr. of Ru Wh seemed to periodically join in the fray as well.

J. F. Lynch
1992

## Weeds Reserve

9 Aug. Weather mild, cloudy, windy in AM; in PM, became cooler and rained steadily from ~ 2 PM on. Miserable.

However, in morning I returned to cross-track area of weeds and used a playback to lure a Grey Shrike-Thrush into one of the 2 nets I had left set up there from yesterday. Bird was singing ~100 m away as I drove up, and he crashed into the net within 5 min. after I started the playback. This was a veteran ♂ that had first been captured at Weeds #1 (DAS roadside spot) in Oct '89, then retrapped by ~~me~~ near cross-track in Oct '91.

Band # 650-92085 3+ male Captured 09:15
White/metal - left leg; White/orange - right leg
[I replaced the worn + brittle orange band]

I attached a large-sized transmitter (#985)
Settings: 1-6-2.0
hd-bill = 51.1 mm; Flattened wing - 122 mm; wt - 63.6 gms

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I returned across the road to the covered reservoir area at NW corner of Weeds, and set up 2 nets in the territory of the pr. of Rufous Whistlers I observed yesterday. Very windy by now, and hardly ideal netting conditions. I could hear the ♂ singing ~100 m S. of nets, and when I put on the playback tape both ♂♂ quickly approached, but hung back a few m. Nets were in an area of open York-Jam-Hakea-Sandalwood woodland.

J.F. Lynch
1992

q Aug - cont'd Weeds Reserve

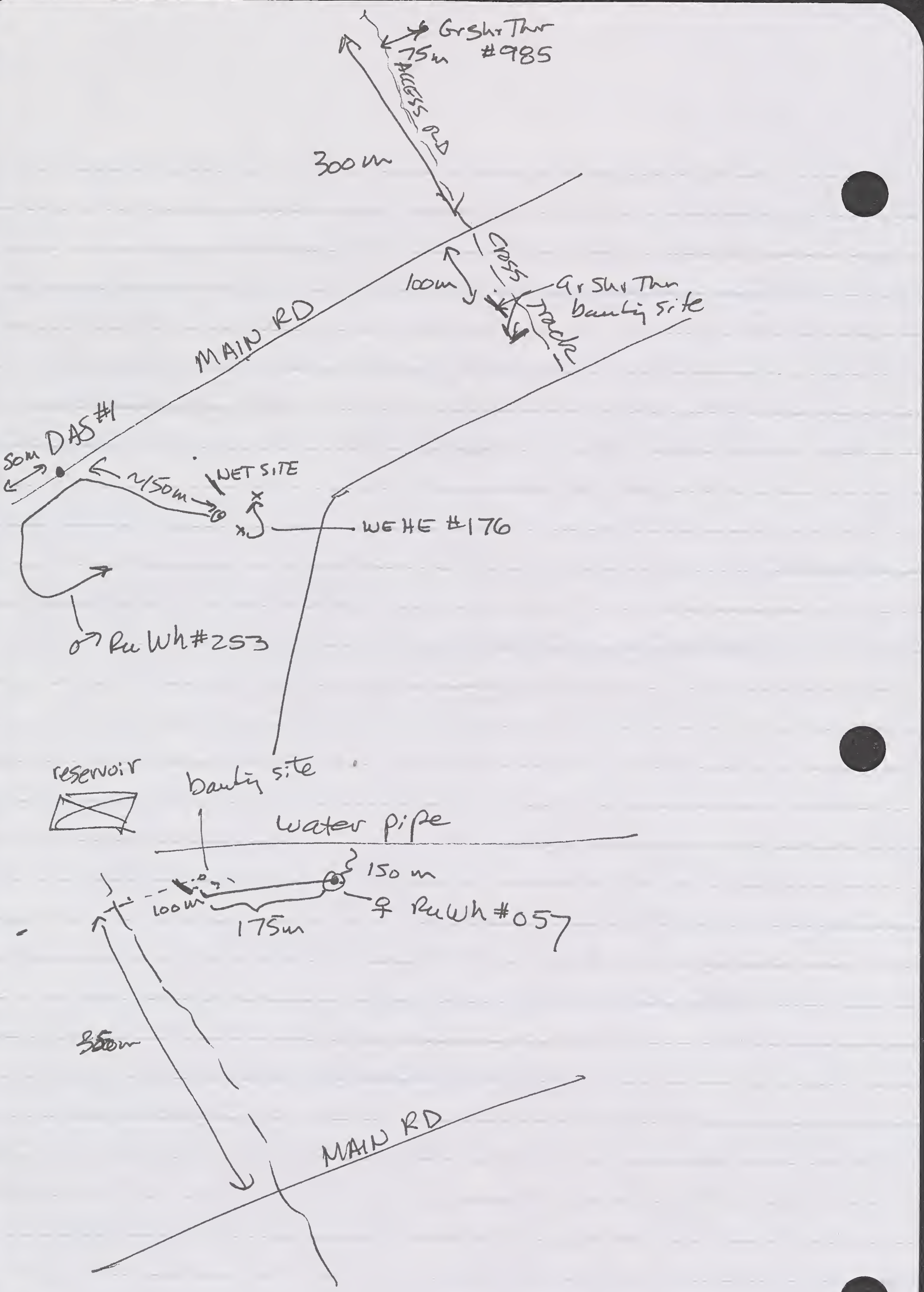
Male was giving only desultory short bursts of song - he stayed up near top of small trees (~ 3-4 m above ground), while I remained quiet at lower levels (~ 2m). After ~10 minutes of suspense, the ♀ finally swooped toward the tape recorder and was captured. (I/t nets up and playback going while) took her back to the CSRD house for processing.

ad ♀ Rufous Whistler (new) captured 11:30
band # 034-39503; Met/wh-RT; Red/D.Blue-L.
Transmitter (med. size) #057
Settings: Ch 1, B9, Fr 1.5

hd-bill - 38.1; wing flattened - 98 mm; wt - 26.6 gm

I released ♀ back at the site at 12:30, by which time weather conditions were really deteriorating - cooler, high winds, light rain. Male was still hanging around giving occasional short song, but not in net when I got there. Instead, I had captured an entire flock (6) of Yellow-rumped Thornbills. Given the rapidly worsening weather, I simply released them instead of bringing them back to the house for banding. Rain heavier by 1:00 PM. I closed these 2 nets, and returned to the cross-track area to close those 2 nets as well. There I found a thoroughly snarled Port Linden Parrot, which I released without banding.

Rain and wind heavy now, and stayed so for the remainder of the afternoon. I reviewed manuscripts and dried out.


Gr Shr Thr
75m
#985
ACCESS RD
300m
Cross
100m
Gr Shr Thr
backup site
MAIN RD
50m DAS #1
2150m
WET SITE
WEHE #176
Ru Wh #253
reservoir
backup site
water pipe
150 m
100m
175m
Ru Wh #057
350m
MAIN RD

J. F. Lynch
1992

10 Aug. Weeds Reserve
I returned to top of the grade - Cross-Track, DAS #1, and Covered Reservoir areas to search for radio-tagged birds. I also left 2 nets open at reservoir site (NW corner of Weeds) alternating RuWh and GrShrThrush playbacks — responses from ruby birds, but no captures. I located 4 of the 5 birds I've tagged:

♂ RuWh #253 - first picked up near banding site, then moved WSW almost to the rd (DAS banding site #1) and continued parallel to rd ~100m to end of eucalypt woodland (beginning of huge Casuarina patch) before doubling back. I also heard this bird at the far NE end of the Salmon Gum grove, in the area where he and 2nd ♂ were fighting the first day I observed him.

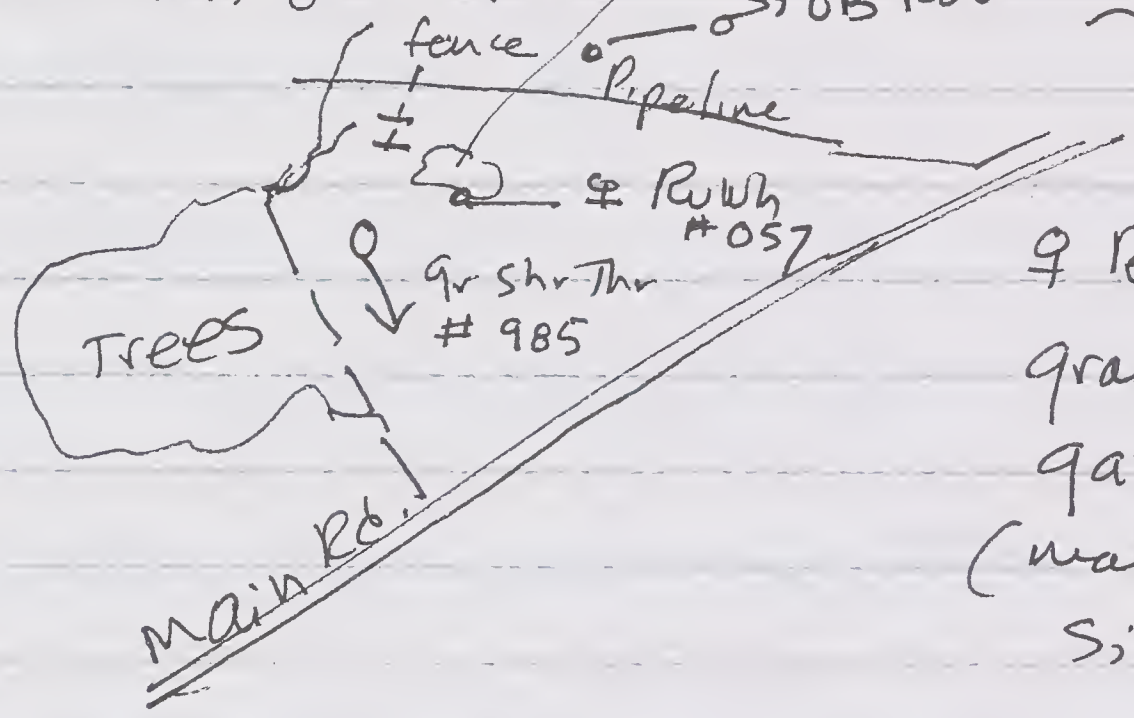
~~Stripe HE~~ #white-eared HE #176 — ~50m S. of net site where banded — moving w. another WEHE.

Gr Shrike Thrush #985 - banded 2/3 of the way across Weeds on Cross Track was picked up in territory of RuWh #253, 300m NNW main rd via access rd to reservoir, and ~75m into York gum woods on E. side of access rd.

Only "missing" tagged bird was ♂ RuWh #894, which I've not seen since he was tagged.

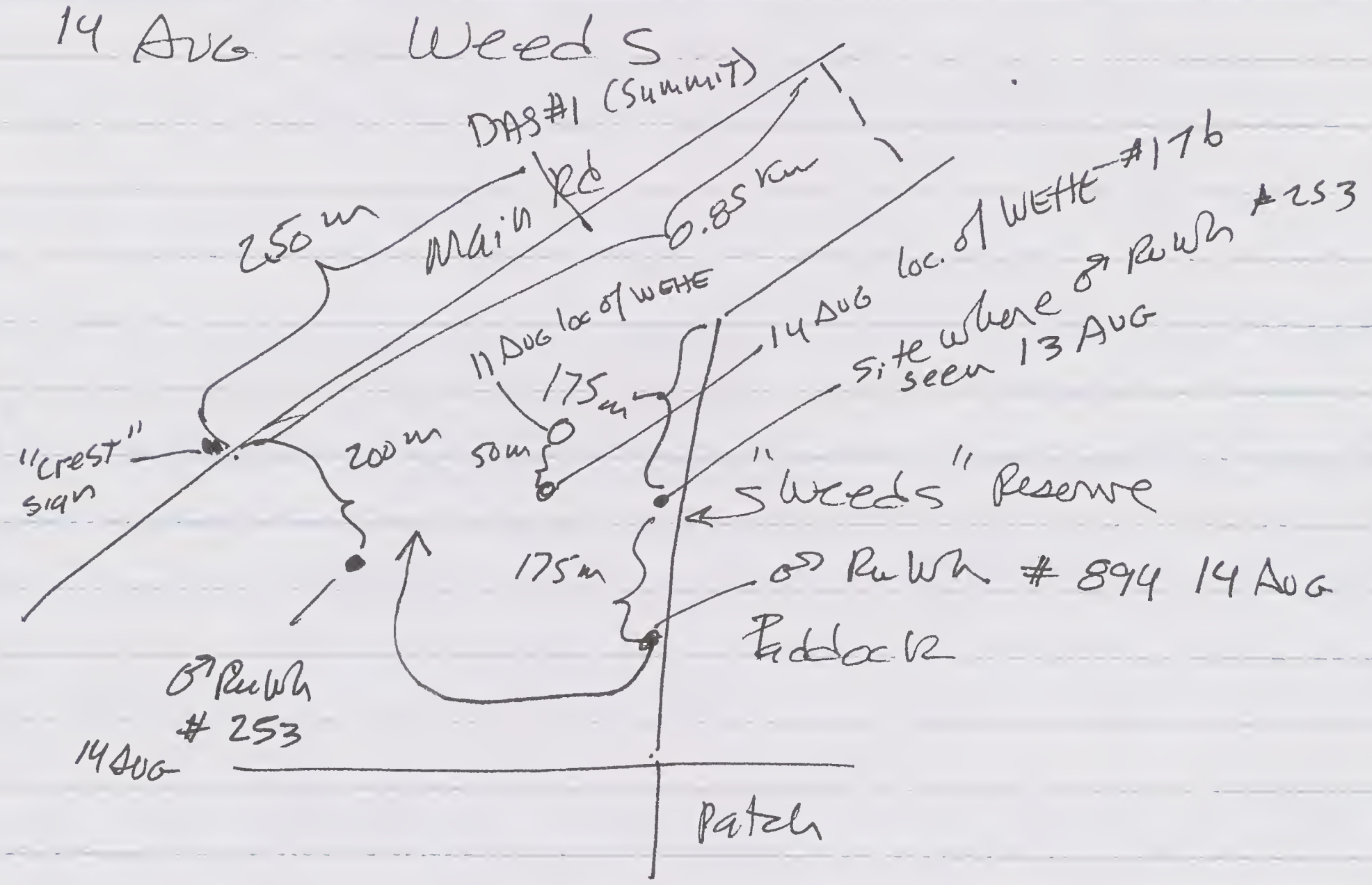
J. F. Lynch
1992

14 AUG – cont'd 'Junk' outcrop → UB Rush Weeds Reserve




♀ Rush #057 nr. "Junk" granite outcrop, ~50m SE gate across Pipeline Rd. (male Rush across on N. side of pipe

14 Aug Weeds




DAS captured Spiny-Cheeked Honeyeater # Site #1 (Summit of Weeds) banded at 15:35
Band # 051-72208 (new)
left - Red/Red Right - White/metal
Transmitter # 018 (Setting: 1-7-3.1)

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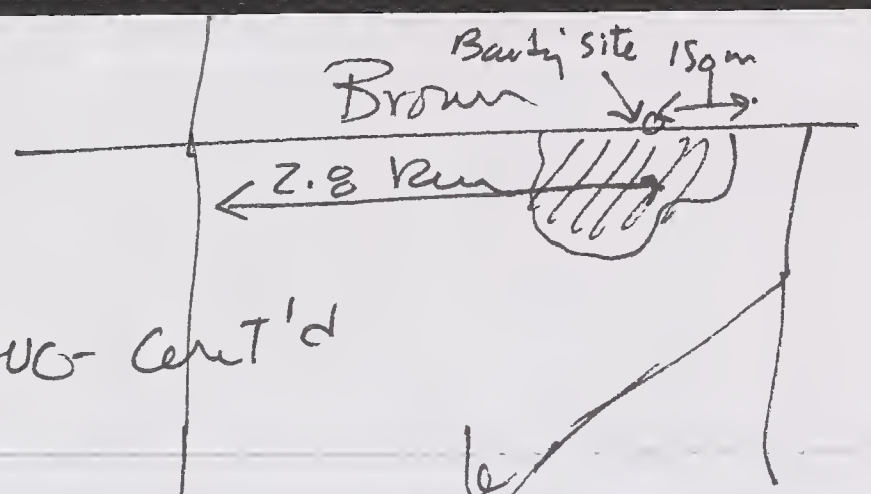
1 caught a Gehyra variegata gecko under sheet of corrugated metal on granite outcrop in NW corner of Weeds (Cov. res. area).

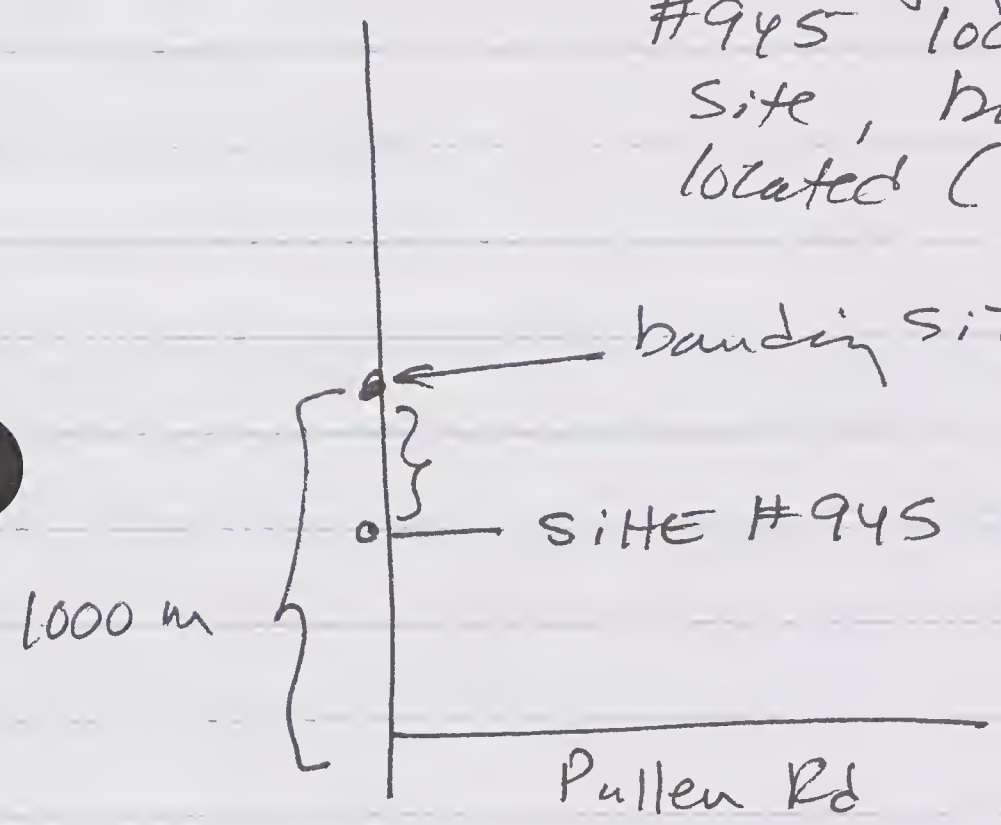



14 Aug- Cont'd

no luck locating ♂ Ru Whistler tagged along Brown Rd 2.8 Km E. Jct. Doodlavine Rd

Babbler #015 at banding site #32 Gr Shr Thr heard here, but no signal.

15 Aug. We returned to Huandenning Rd. Site where Sing HE's banded yesterday. #945 located ~ 125 m S. of banding site, but #854 could not be located (we searched to 1 Km S. of banding site, and 2.6 Km N. of banding site)




Lots of tadpoles in granite pools on E. side of Huandenning Rd ~ 2 Km N. of banding site. Clustered in tight groups of several dozen. Fat, Mottled ~~ott~~ color pattern body ~ 1.5 cm long.

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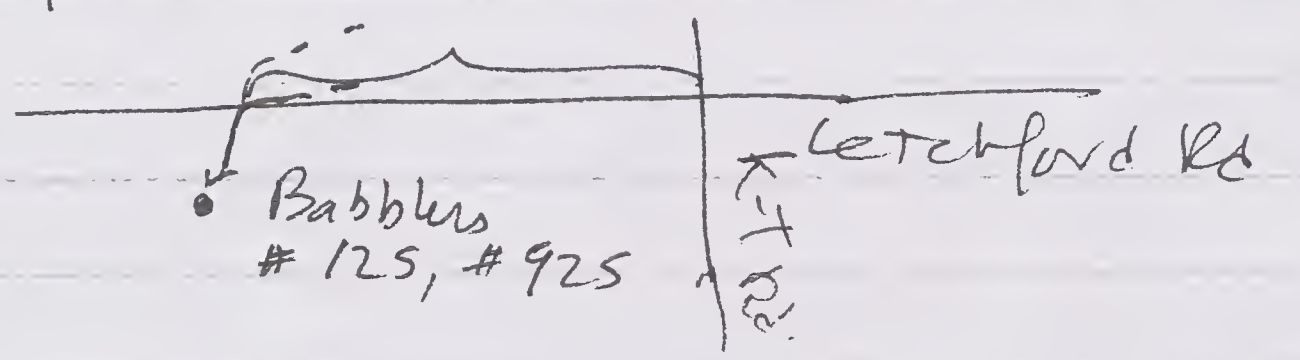
We located the 2 babblers on Letchford Rd just N. of Kellerberrin Rd — crossed to S. side of rd ~ 450 m W. of jct w. Kell. Rd. Both in same group



J. Fitzpatrick
1992

15 Aug - cont'd DAS Banding at Weeds s. te #1 (Summit). We got 2 horeepeaters from him for tagging:

09:30 Singing HE Band #?
Left - Red/Red RT - Mauve/wet.
Transmitter # 141 (Setting: 1-12-3.5)

White-eared HE Band #?
transmitter # 375 (Setting: 2-10-0 OR 2-9-4.5)

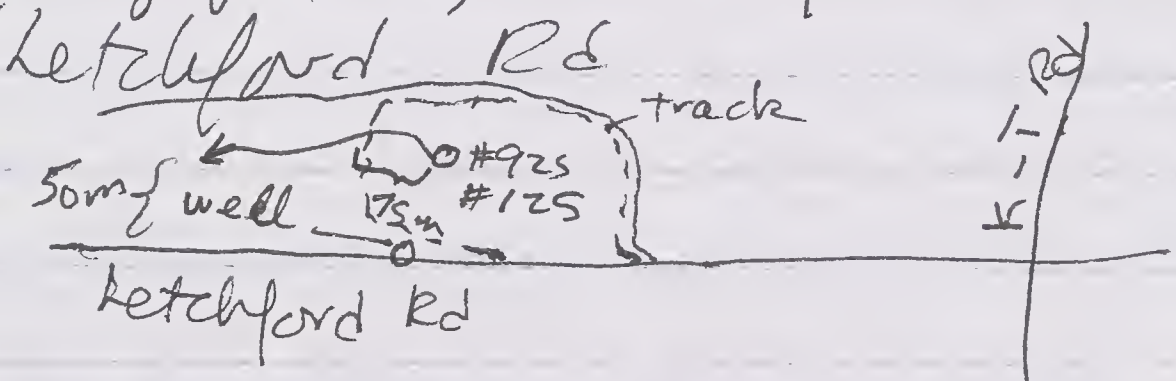
Doodlakeive x Argle Rd
Babbler # 015 ~ 50m N. of banding site, just S. of driveway that cuts through vegetated corridor on W. side of rd.

No sign of grey Shrike-Thrush — ~~Too~~ banded here 12 Aug. or Redwattlebird banded 11 Aug. rain starting at ~ 12:30
Rained, heavily at times, all afternoon.

16 Aug. Black-tailed Nativeen Hen and Brown Falcon seen in morning along Pullen Rd as we drove W. toward Huandenning Rd.

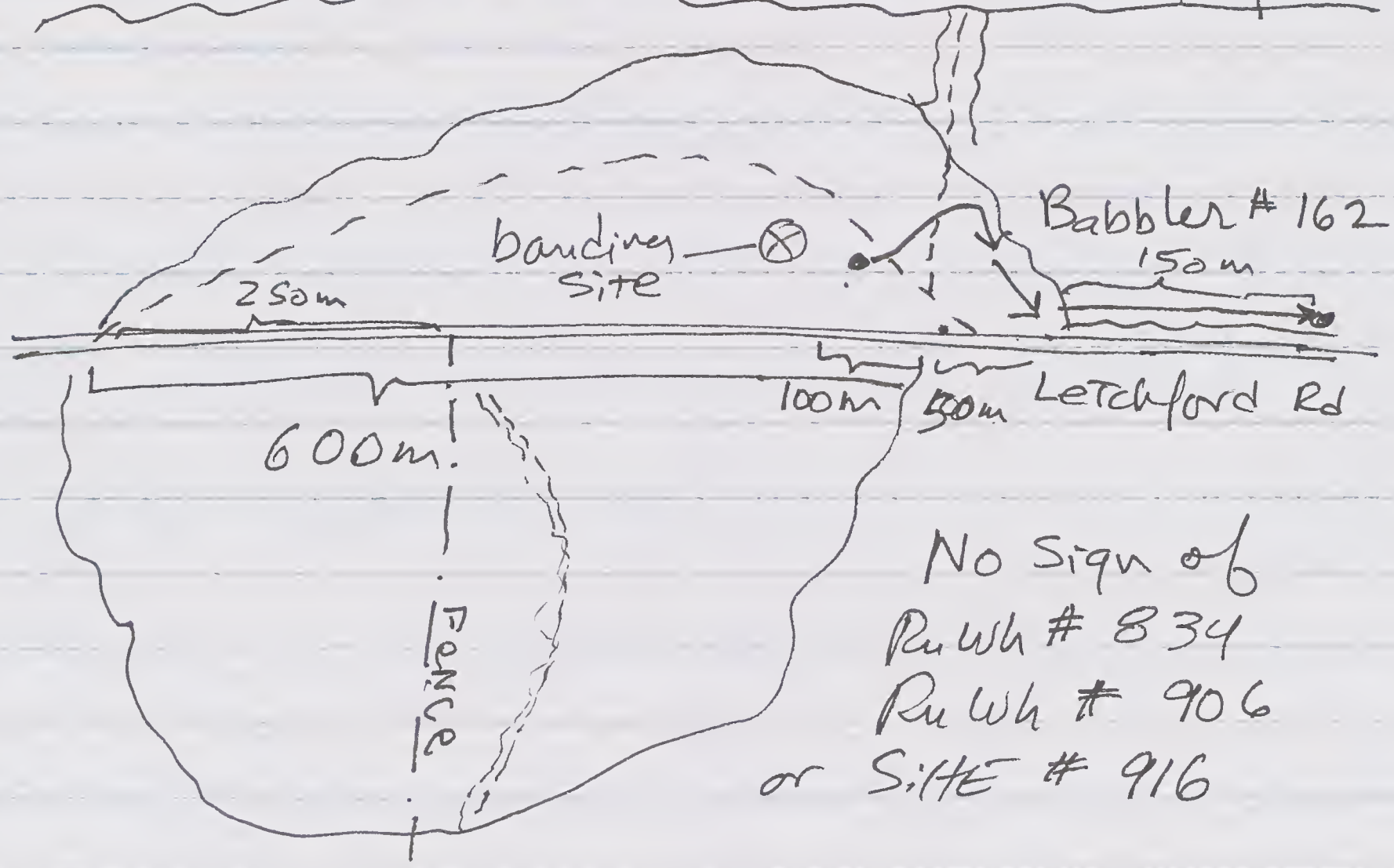
Singing HE #945 tagged 14 Aug located 25m S. of yesterday's location (SITE #854 not found)

W-br Babblers #925, #125 found together at E. edge of patch, N. side of rd. N. old well on Letchford Rd



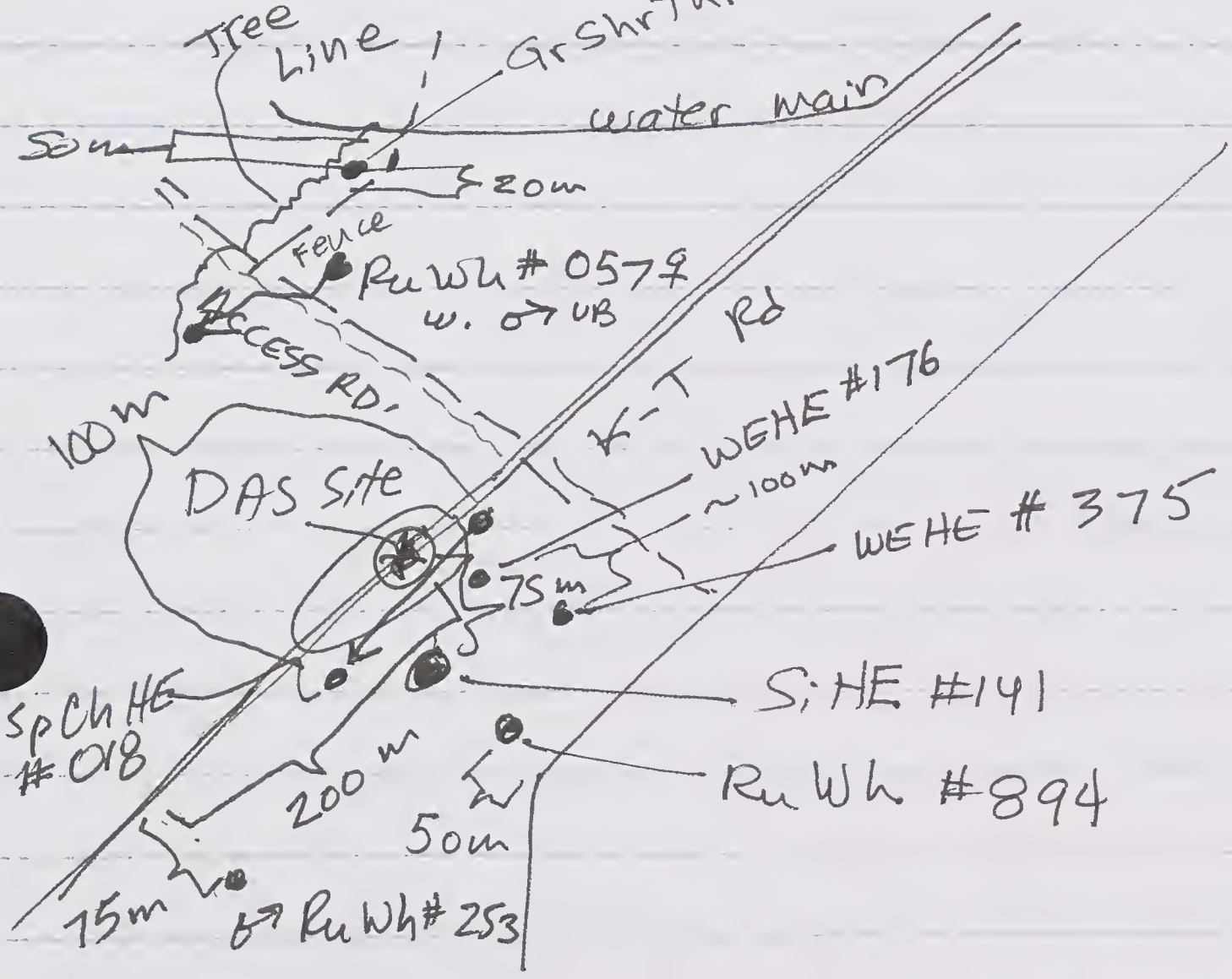
J.F. Lynch
1992

16 Aug - cont'd "Perry's Patch" along Letchford Rd betw. Doodlakine and Keller-Traynor Rd




Birds seen here: R-C Robin, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo, Weebill, Willie Wagtail, ~~Shining~~ Wh-bv Babbler, Reg. Whistler, Gr. Shrike-Thrush, Tree Martin, Galah, Pt. Lincoln Ringneck, Aust. Raven, Y-R Thornbill, Western Warbler, Grey Fantail, Cr. Bellbird

Weeds reserve

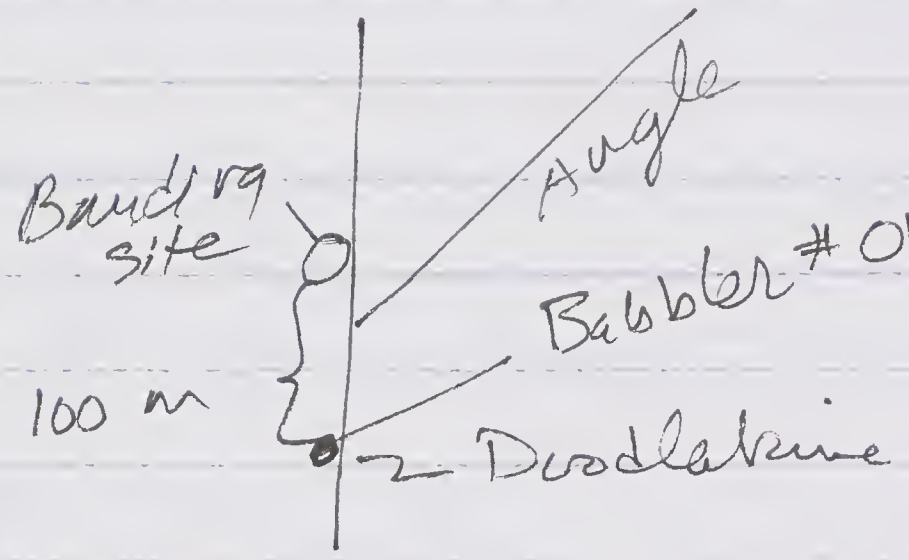



all 8 birds tagged at Weeds were located today

Of Lynda
1992

16 Aug Brown Rd 2.8 km E. of Doodlakine Rd
(cont'd) No sign of Rufous #385 banded 12 Aug 92

Doodlakine Rd x Argyle Rd




Wh Br Babbler found
No Sign of Gr Shr Th or Rufous.

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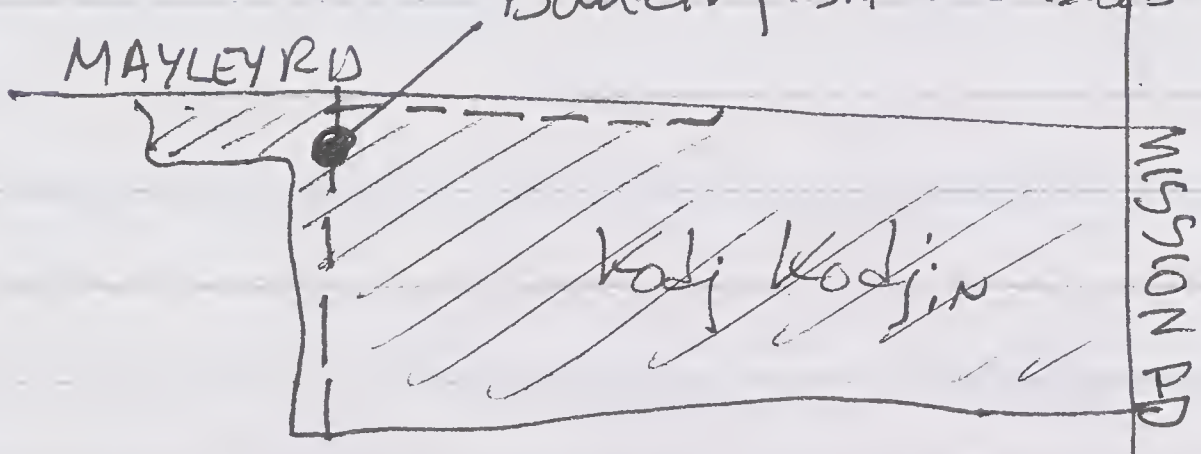
17 Aug. Kodj Kodjin Reserve
Perry de Rebeira's crew caught 2 birds for us at their banding site where tracks ~~Hwy~~ cuts S. through reserve Nr. NW Corner.

White-browed Babbler #884 (Setting 1-2-3)
Band #051-72110 (colors: green/W-rt; OR/met-Lft)

ad ♂ Rufous Whistler #975 (Setting: 1-5-5.5)
Band # 033-64579 (colors: Wh/R-rt; OR/met.-Left)




Babbler #884, Ro Wh #975

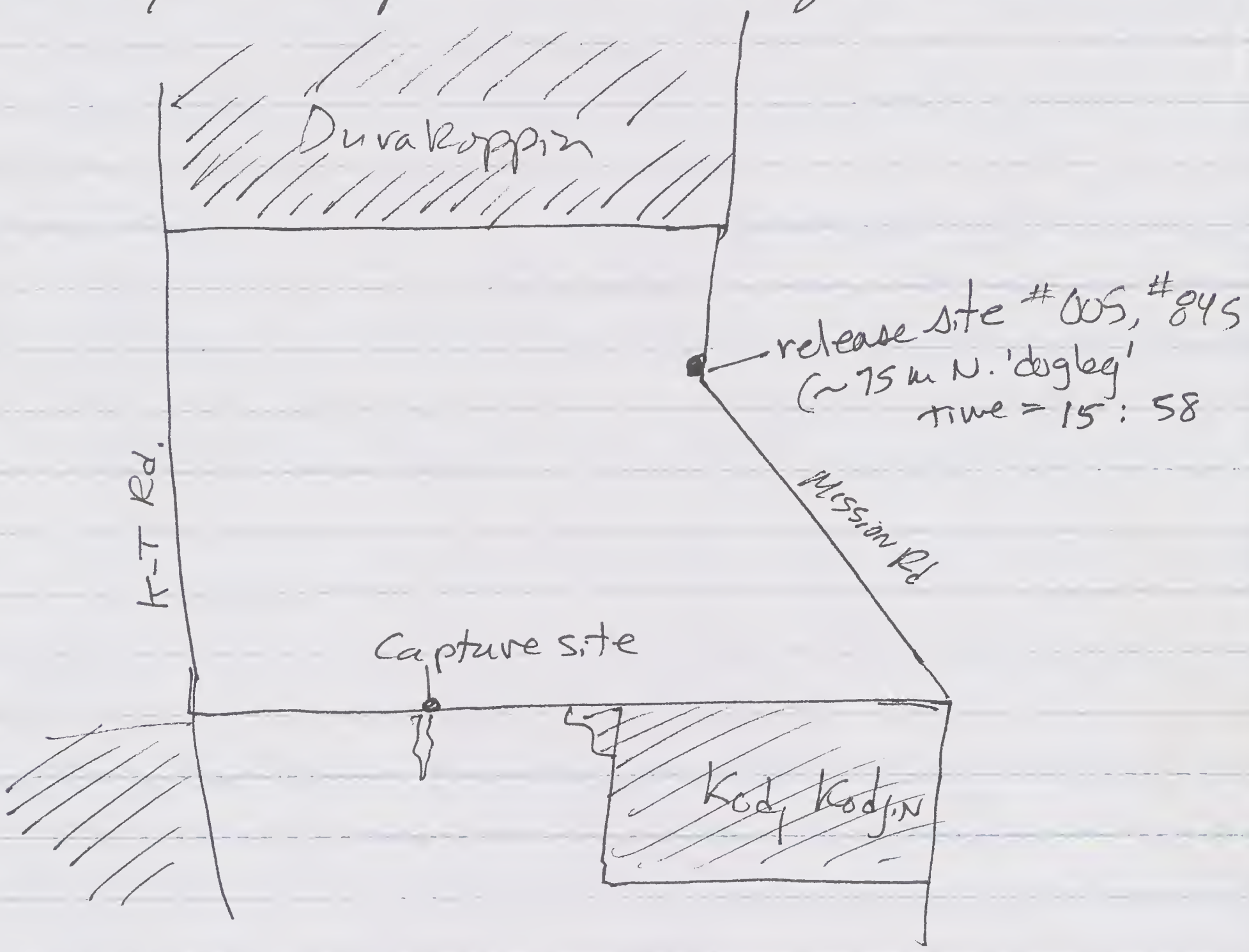
scrub just S. of driveway ~150 m N. DAS banding site

Corridor #1 - betw. KK and Durokoppin
1 im m. Rufous Whistler (crew) netted by Bill + Me
Transmitter #211 (setting: 2-3-3.5)
Band # 034-39504 (colors met/or-rt; Red/Blue-left)

J. F. Lynch
1992

17 Aug (cont'd) Maley Rd 600m W. NW corner of Kodj Kodjin (actually from private patch of bush that runs into Kodj Kodjin.

Bill + I netted 2 <u>White-browed Babblers</u> from a group of ~6 that seems to live in corridor and adjacent short span of trees that goes S. into paddock. We displaced both birds to the "elbow" in Barrier #1 to see how ~~that~~ they would find their way home




White-browed Babblers
#005 (Setting 1-7-0.5)
Band # 051-73902 (colors (Met/Maur-r; W/W-L)

#845 (Setting 1-1-0.0)
Band # 051-73901 (colors: Met/Maure-rt; R/R-left)

Both birds immediately flew to narrow corridor on E. side of rd, then S. past dogleg and back into W.

J. F. Lepreau
1992
17 AUG – cont'd
Side of corridor. Both birds in heath/wallee for ~ 2¼ hr., but when we checked back at 16:45, #845 had moved N. of dogleg ~ 50m N. of release pt, and #005 could not be found.

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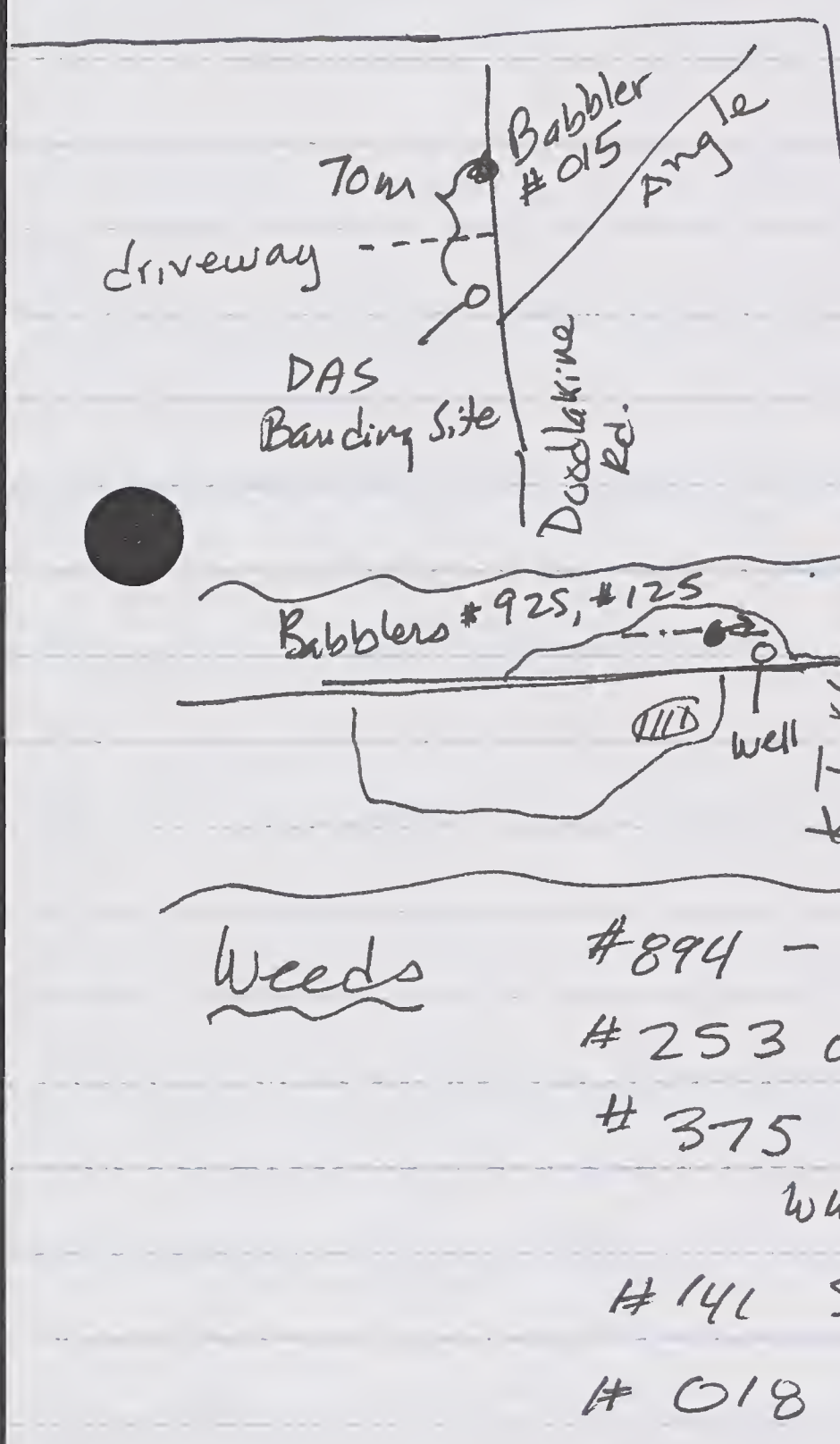
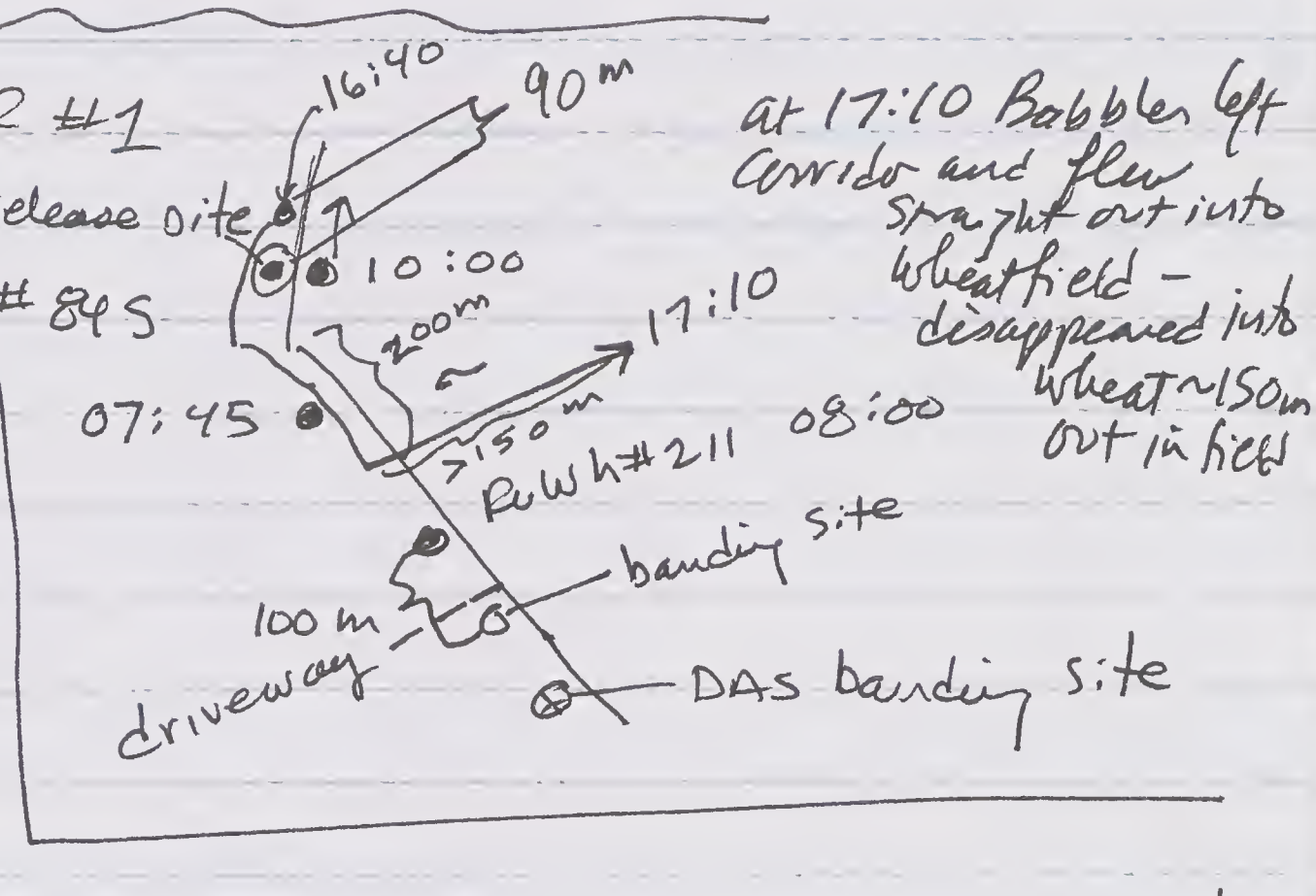
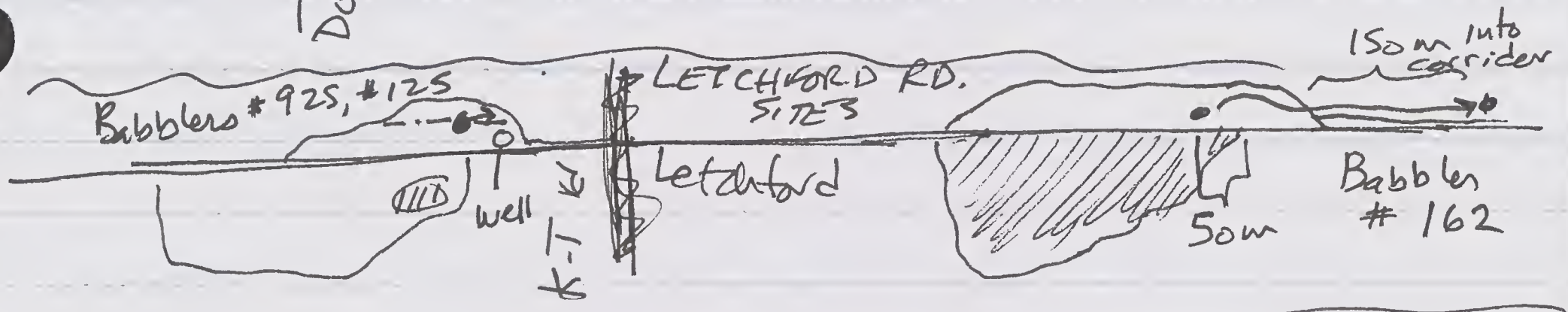
18 Aug. CORRIDOR #1

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Weeds

#894 – ♂ RuWh – NOT FOUND

#253 ♂ RuWh – 5m E. site where found 12 Aug

#375 WhEared HG – 20m S. of place where WhE HE #176 sighted on 14 Aug

#141 SiHE – 20m N. of site where found 14 Aug

#018 SpCh HE – NOT FOUND

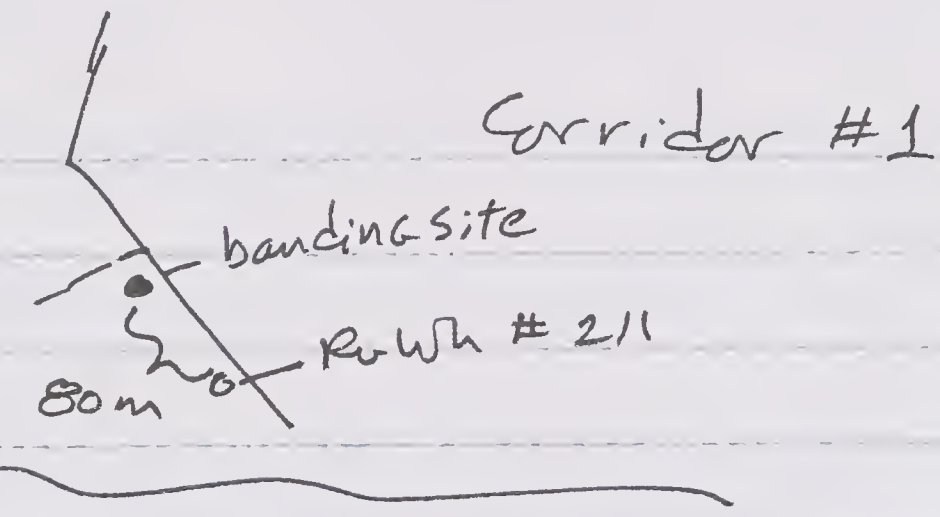
#176 – WhE HE – NOT FOUND

#057 – ♀ RuWh – 10m SW site where found 14 Aug (40m S. of gate nr. water line)

#985 Gr Shr Thrush – in bushes nr radio tower – outside main area of woodland

J.F. Lynch
1992

19 August

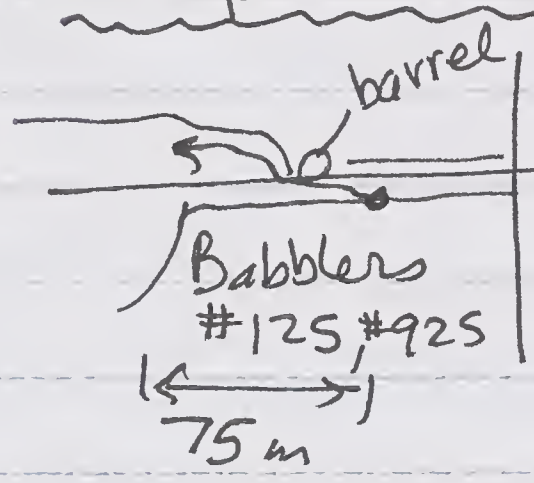


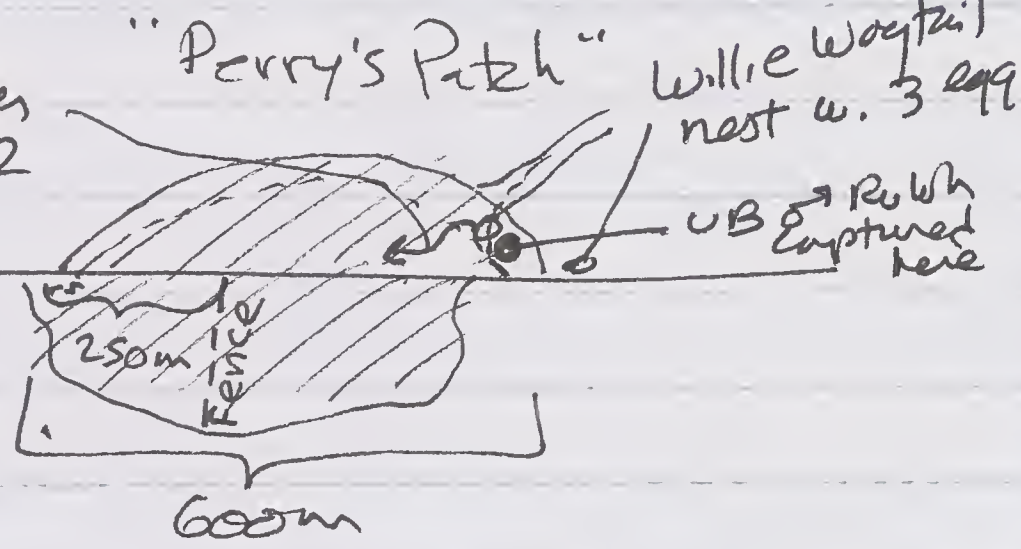

2 new babblers netted from group W. of Rodj Kodjin on Maley Rd (~600 m), where 2 babblers & for displacement exp. were netted.

Babbler
Transmitter #034 (med) (Setting 1-8-3.5)
(Dion's: 1-9-3.5)
Band # 051-73903
Colors: Met/Mauve - Rt. Blue/Blue - left

Babbler
Transmitter # 875 (lg.) (Setting: 1-2-0.5)
(Dion's: 1-3-1.5)
Band #051-73904
Colors: Met/mauve - Rt. Mauve/Mauve - left

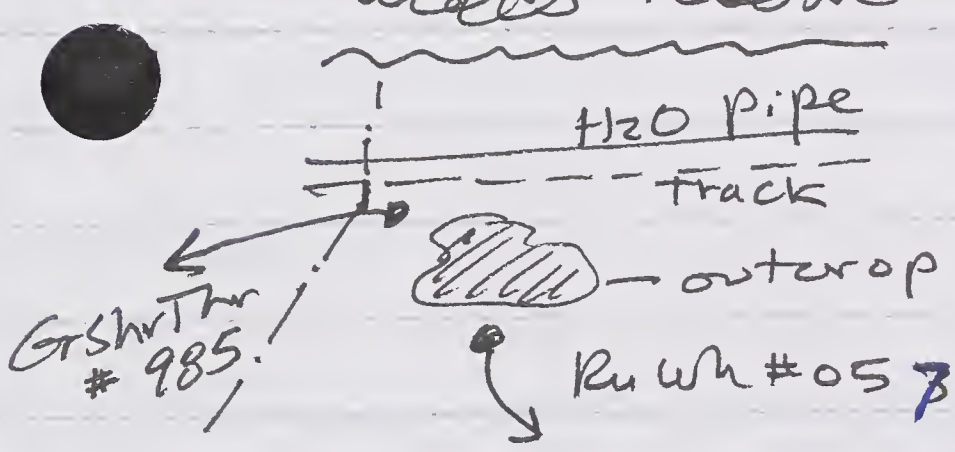
Ketchford Rd sites




ad ♂ Rufous Whistler netted at far E. edge of N. side of "Perry's Patch"
Transmitter #906 (Setting 1-3-2.0; Dion's: 1-3-4.5)
Band #034-39505; Colors: Met/MV - Rt; MV/MV - left

Weeds Reserve (NW) ♀ RuWh #057 w. UB ♂ RuWh at big granite outcrop w. junk on it. V. close to Gr Shr Th site of 11 Aug 92




Gr Shr Th #985 just NW of outcrop - flew W. across fence.

J. F. Lynch
1992

19 Aug - cont'd

NOT found: RuWh #894

WEHE #176

both banded on 7 Aug 92

80m

♂ RuWh #253

Weeds - cont'd

DASsite #1

90m

WEHG #375

150m

20m

SpChHE #018

SiHE #141

♂ RuWh (not seen) 8, 7, 9, 9 in the same place where ♂ RuWh #253 seen on 11 Aug

Doodlakine Rd

Babbler #015

Angle Rd Street Sign

20 Aug CORRIDOR #1

DAS banding crew captured 2 birds for us:

White-eared Honeycreeper (new) Band # 033-64277
colors: green/met-rt; Blue/Blue - left
transmitter: #205 (2-3-3.5; Dion's: 2-4-5)

♀ (or imm.) Rufous Whistler (new) Band # 034-28915
colors: green/met-rt; Red/blue - left
transmitter # 115 (1-11-4.1; Dion's: 1-12-4)

Kodj Kodjin - NE Corner

I captured a new ad ♂ Rufous Whistler Band # 034-28916 DAS
Color: OR/met-rt Red/Red-left
Transm. #094 (1-10-3.5)

Maley

550m

Kodj Kodjin

250m

ad ♂ RuWh

Mission

Maley Rd. - 500m W. NE corner Kodj Kodjin
no babblers seen in usual area (#034, #875 NOT found)

Letchford Rd. localities

Babblers #125 #925

well

Letchford Rd

CSIRO banding site

500

250m

Babbler #162

J.F. Lynch
1992

20 Aug - cont'd

no - bird banded last yr.

Wimmera Gate (EW# 9)

Grey Shrike Thrush (recap) Netted by Perry
#051-52375 ~~(I banded This bird last yr. at SW corner of Kodj Kodjin - put a transmitter on it. Bird looks perfectly recovered Now)~~
Color bands met/blue-left; R/R - Right
Hd. bill 53.4 Wing chord - 130 mm
Transmitter #935 (Settings: 1-4-2.7 Dion's: 1-5-3.9)

At Weeds, Bill found 9r Shr Thrush dead. - one of pr. is carrying transmitter #935; other is banded, but w/o transmitter.

9 Rush also seen by Bill in usual area

---

WEHE #375 - in same spot as on 17 Aug
(WEHE #176 ~~not found~~ ? ? ? - Seen Sow The #375 loc. on 14 Aug)
SiHE #141 - not found
SpchHE #018 " "
Rush #894 " "

---

Kell-Traynor Rd ~400 m N jct. Laird Rd

Singing HE Band # 034-28918 (new) DAS banded
Colors: Mv/Mv-left; Mv/met - rt.
Transm # 195 (2-2-3.7)

21 Aug Same locality

Singing HE Band # 034-28919 (new) DAS banded
Colors: Met/mv - rt. Red/Red-left
Transm # 304 (2-7-1.9)

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Wimmera Gate: Imm. Raf. Whistler (new)
colors: Mv/met-L banded # 033-64593
Or/green - rt.
transmitter: # 244 (2-4-4.6; Dion's: 2-5-4.2)

J. F. Lynch
RR2

21 Aug - cont'd Wimmera Gate - cont'd

White-br. Babbler Band # 051-72125

colores: met/mv - left; Mv/green - rt.

Transmitter: #135 (1-12-2+; Dion's: 2-1-4)

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21-23 Aug In Midland and Perth

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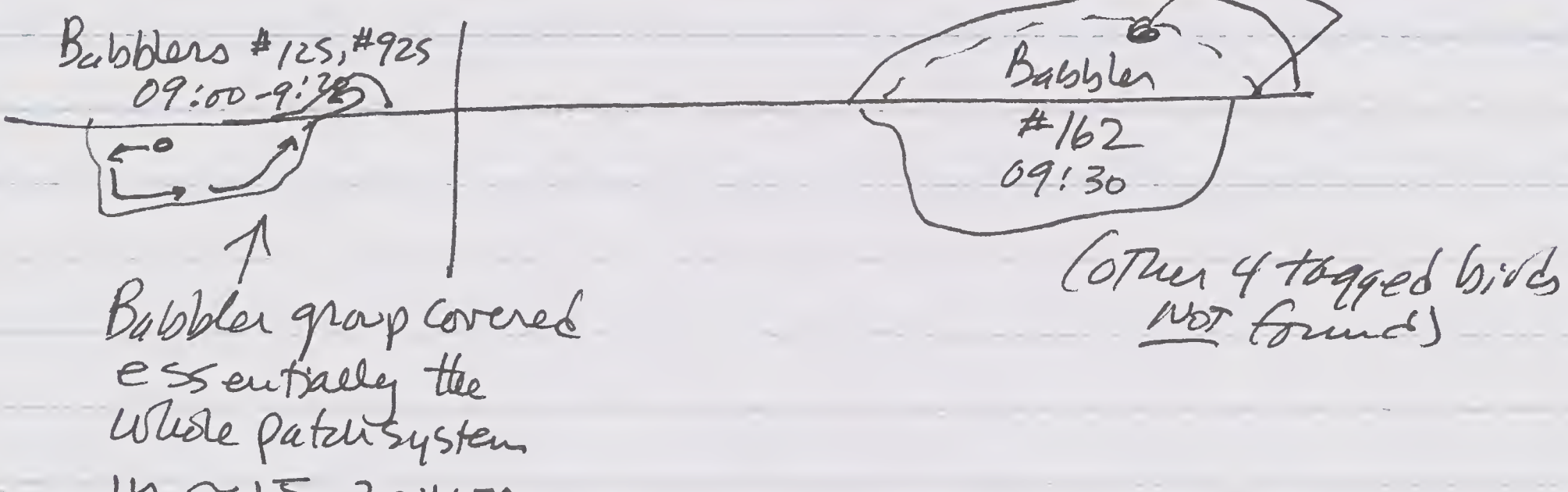
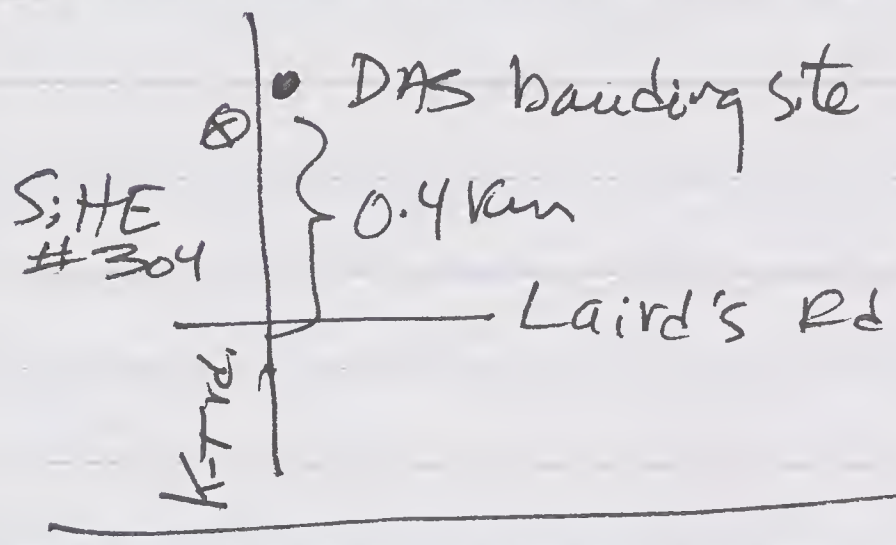
24 Aug. Letchford Rd. localities ~125m




Kellerberrin-Trayning Rd

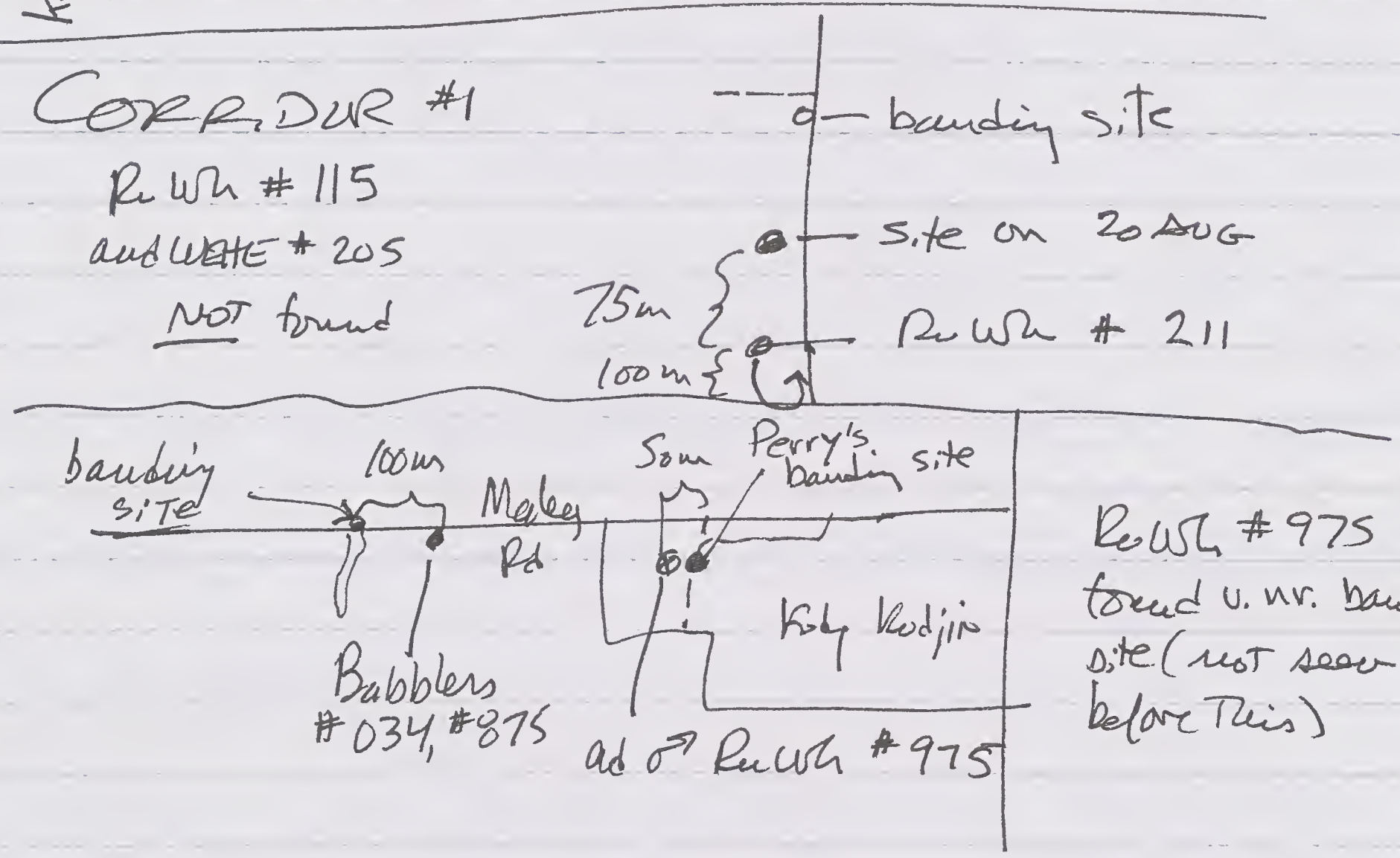



CORRIDOR #1

RuWh #115

and WEHE #205

NOT found

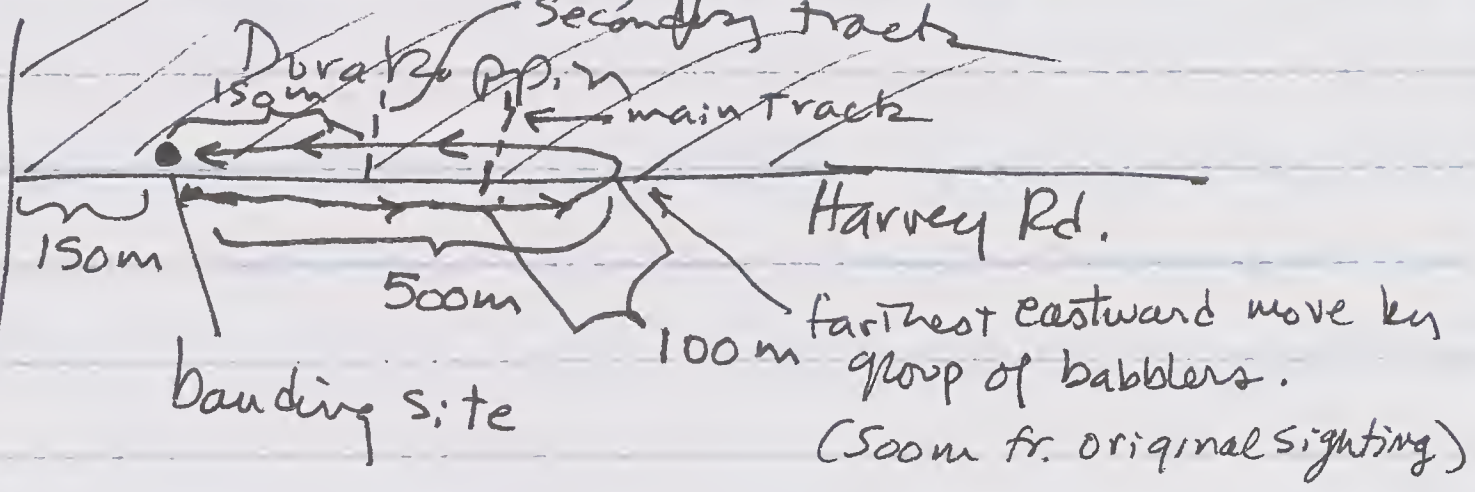


J.F. Lynch
1992

24 AUG - cont'd

Durabbpin Reserve

We located a group of babblers at SW corner of Durabbpin in casuarina heath. We succeeded in Survey 3 into a mist-net: put transmitters on 2 of these.

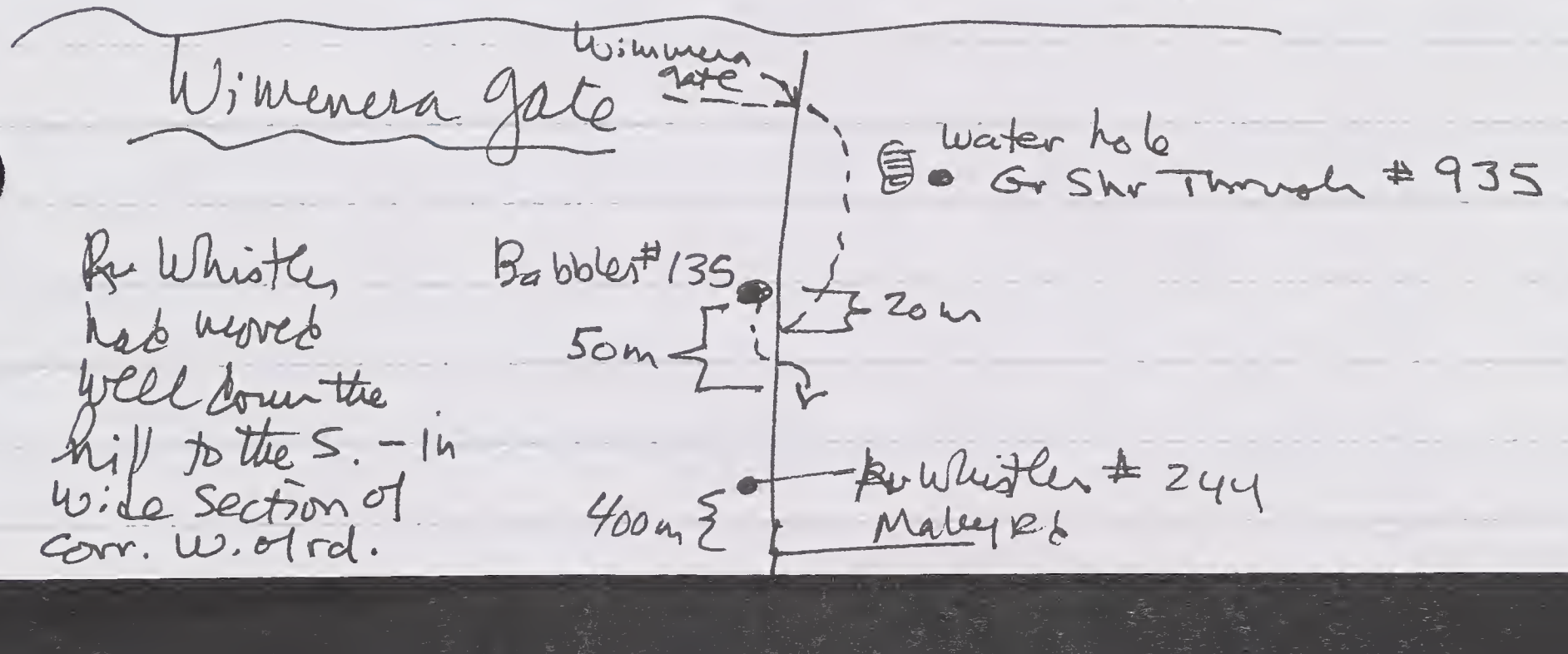



White-browed Babbler (new) Band # 051-73906
Colors: Red/Red - Left; met/Blue - RT. 1-12-3
Transm. # ~~102~~ (1-11-2,3); DION'S: ~~1-9-F~~)

White-br. Babbler (new) Band # 051-73905
Colors wh/wh-Left; met/Blue-Right
Transmitter # 045 (1-8-4; DION'S - 1-9-F)

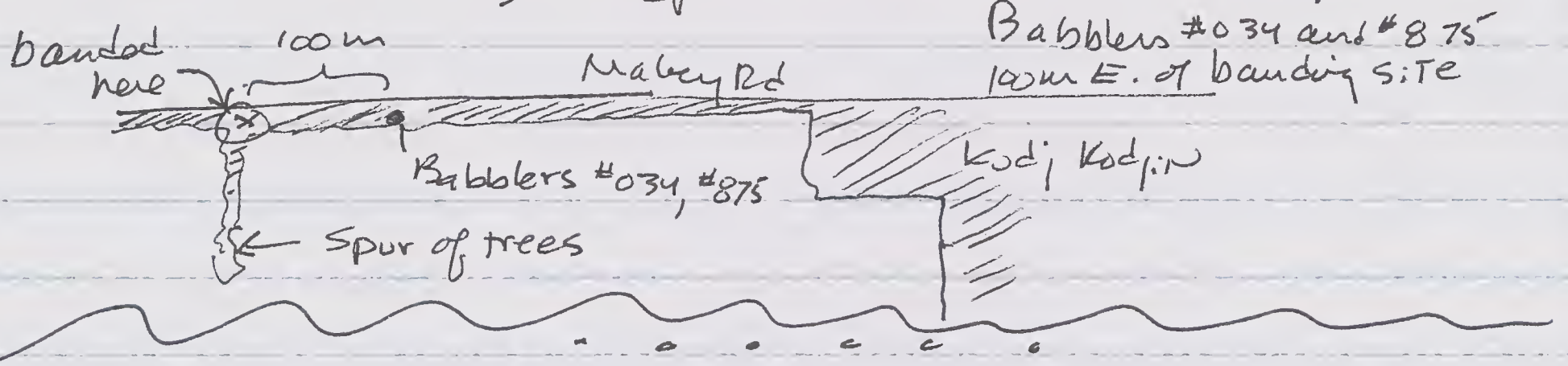
White-browed Babbler (new) Band # 051-73907
Colors Blue/Blue - left; met/Blue - right
No Transmitter
NOTE: This bird had large brood patch.

Singing Honeyeater (recapture) Band # 031-66565
(note: old-type band with nothing except number on it)
Colors bands: Blue/metal - RT; Red/Red - left
(note: red bands v. faded - I replaced them)



J. F. Lynch
1992

24 Aug - cont'd Maley Rd 600m W. Kodj Kodjin




25 Aug Doodlakine x Argyle Rd (DAS site)

09:00 Babbler #015 at same spot as on 15 Aug - flew N. across driveway for ~50 m. Gr Shr Thr #220 not found.

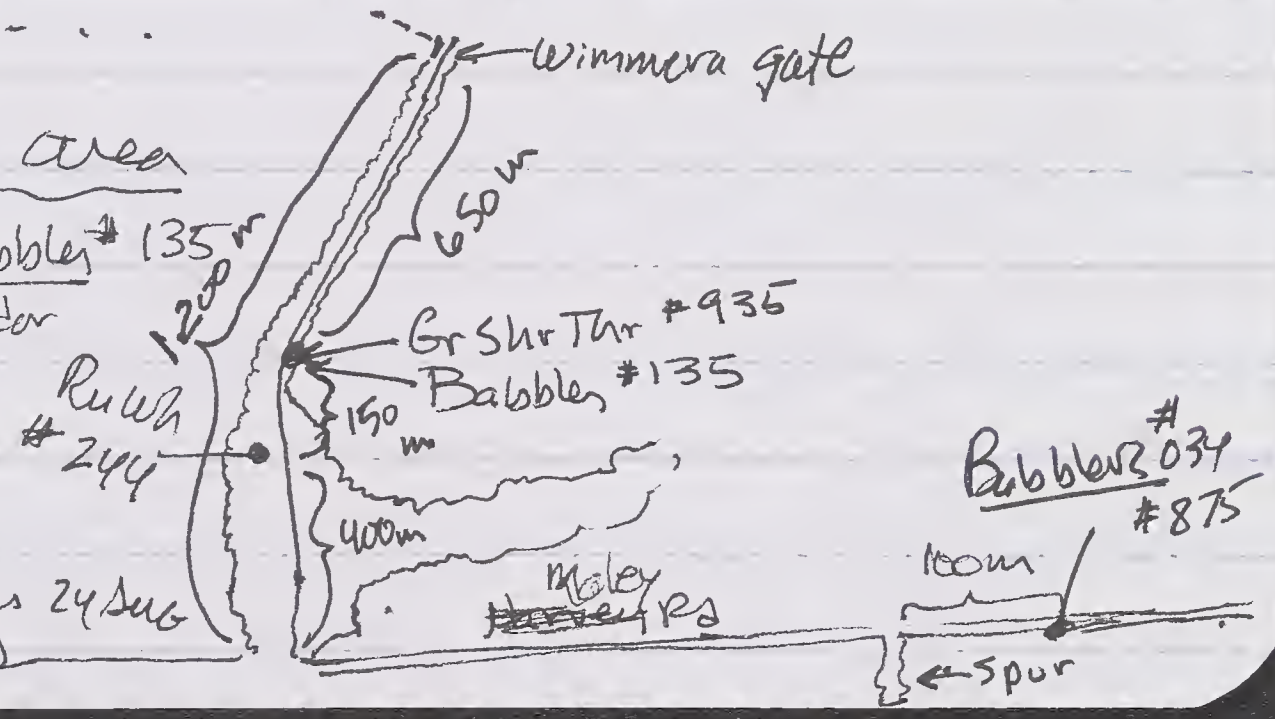
09.25 NE corner of Kodj Kodjin reserve
Rufous Whistler #094 ~150m W. of banding site

09:35 Corridor #1 (between Kodj Kodjin + Durrakoppin)
4B White-eared HE ~50m S. of spot where babblers seen yesterday (ca. 500-600m S DAS banding site)
evidently there are 2 groups of babblers in Corridor #1 one group hangs out just N. of DAS site; the other quite a bit south.
Rufous Whistler #211 in same Casuarina thicket where found 18 Aug (just N. of driveway through verge, ~75m N. of banding site)
4 Pacific Herons on pond in paddock opp. this area

10:15 Durrakoppin East - SW portion
Babblers #045 and #102 along Trayning Rd ~5km N. Jct. w. Harvey Rd - tall Casuarina bushes here.

10:30 Wimmera Gate area
Gr. Shr Thr #935 and Babbler #135 in same area where corridor swells into patch at curve in the rd S. of Wimmera gate ~500m

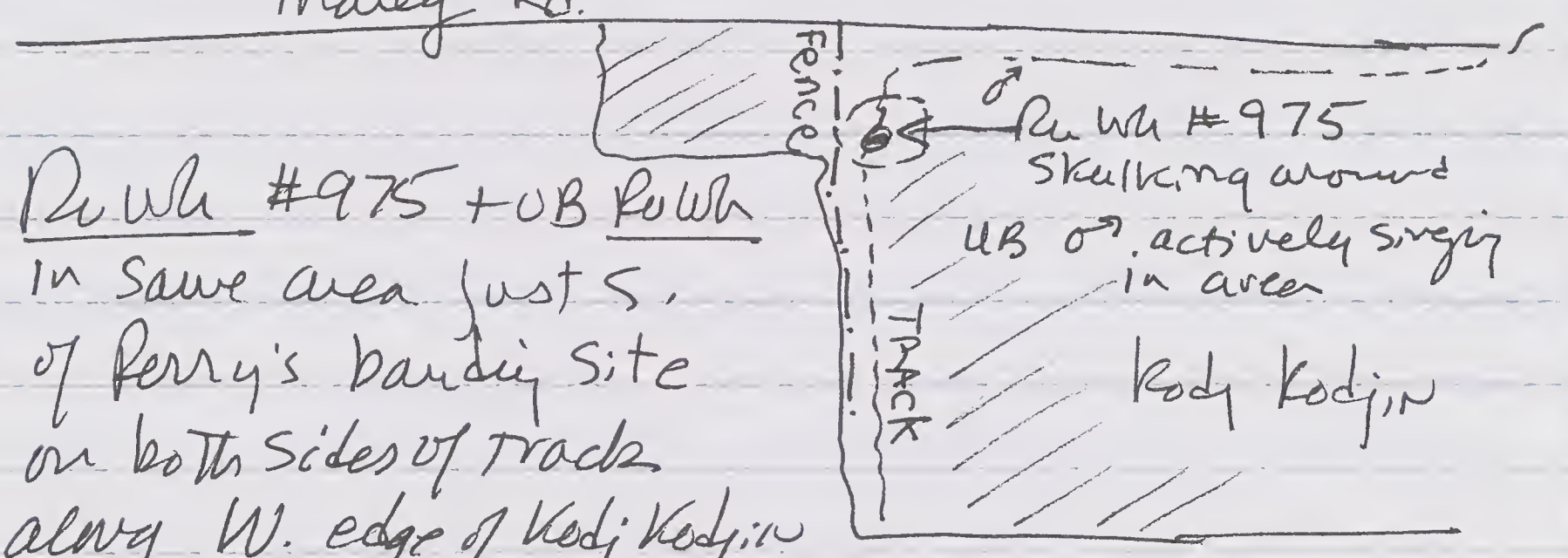
Ru Wh #244 in same area as 24 Aug (bushy expansion of verge)



J.F. Lynch
1992

25 Aug - cont'd

Maley Rd - Kodj Kodjin



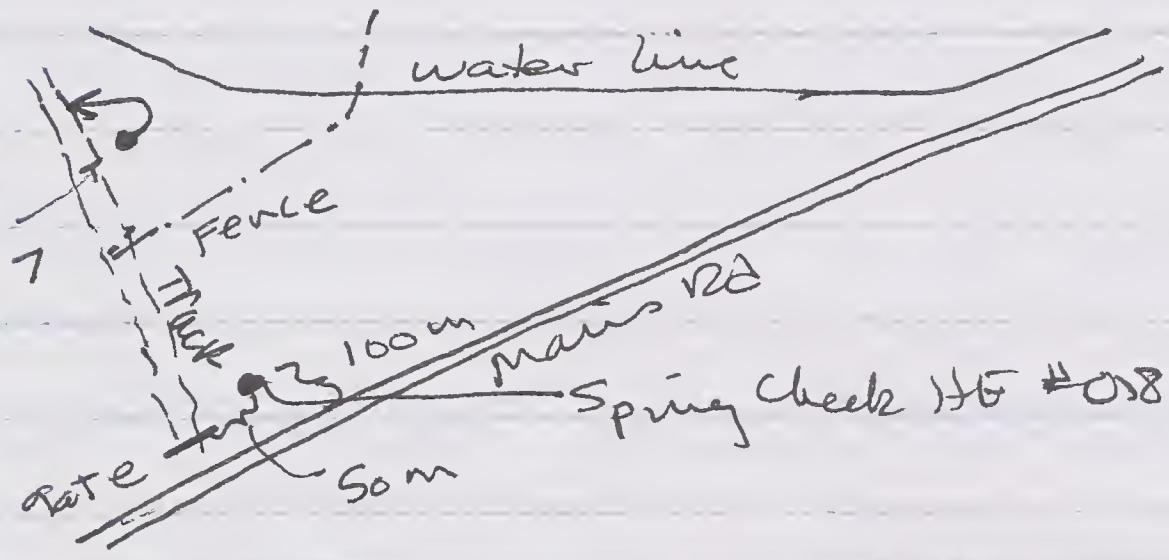

RwWh #975 + UB RwWh
In same area just S. of Perry's bandy site on both sides of track along W. edge of Kodj Kodjin

Traynivy Rd ~ 400m N. of Laird's Rd
SITE #304 ~ 40m S. of site where present 24 Aug (no sign of SITE #195)

Letchford Rd. just W. of W. Traynivy Rd
Babbler #125, #925 feeding at N. edge of rd. ~ 20m W. of old well; moved westward ~ 50m along road margin.

Letchford Rd between Traynivy & Doodlakine Rds (Perry's Patch)
Babbler #162 ~ 50m E. of E. border of patch on S. side of rd in corridor.

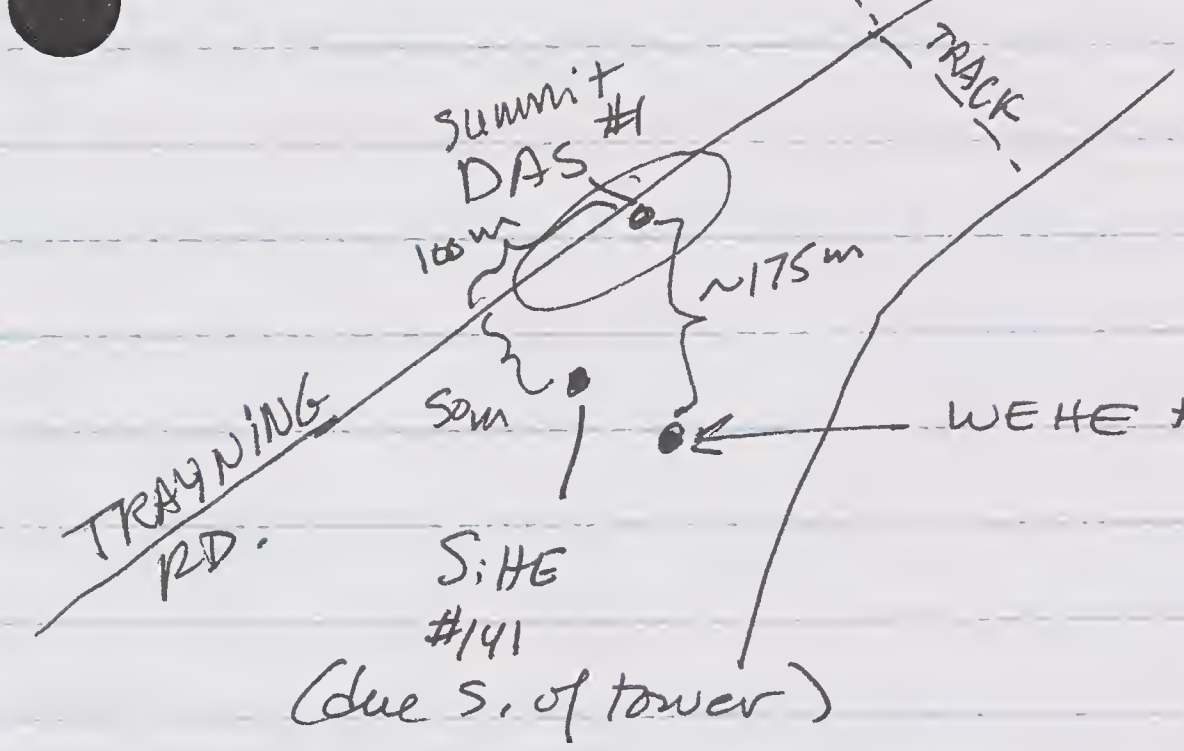
NW. Section of 'Weeds' Reserve (nr. tower)
Nest of Grey Shr.-Thrush #985 predated - eggs gone, no disturbance of nest cup. No sign of either adult. Nest in hollow of broken-off Eucalypt trunk (diam ~ 0.5m) ~ 1 m off ground.
♀ RwWh #057 in same area as usual




Spring-Creek HG
Just into N. side of weeds beyond gate

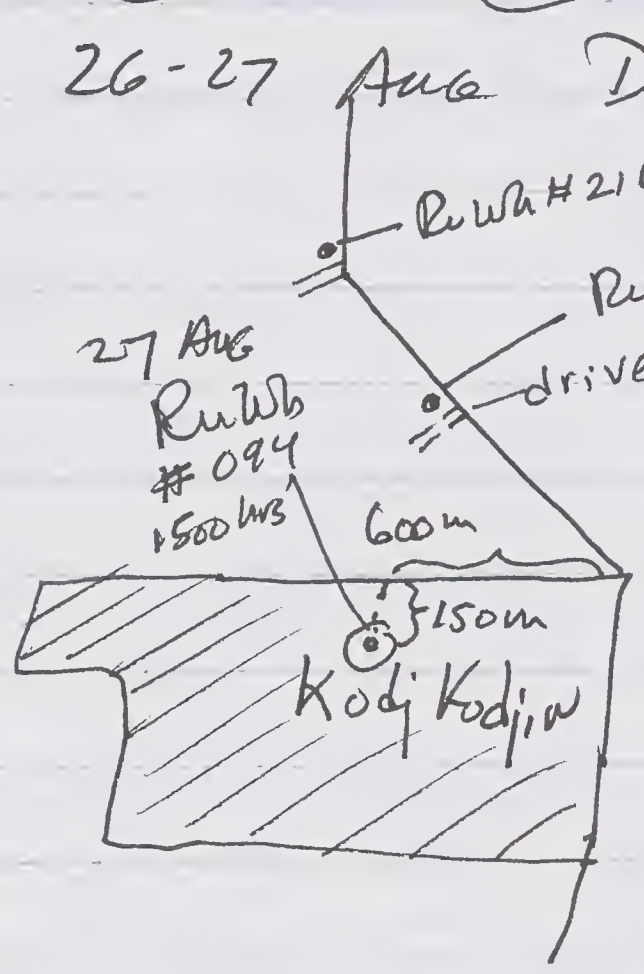
J.F. Lynch
1992

25 Aug Weeds – Summit Area




3 'oldest' birds tagged
(RuWh #894, RuWh #253, WEHE #176)
NOT found – tagged 7 Aug 92

26-27 Aug DION's tracking data



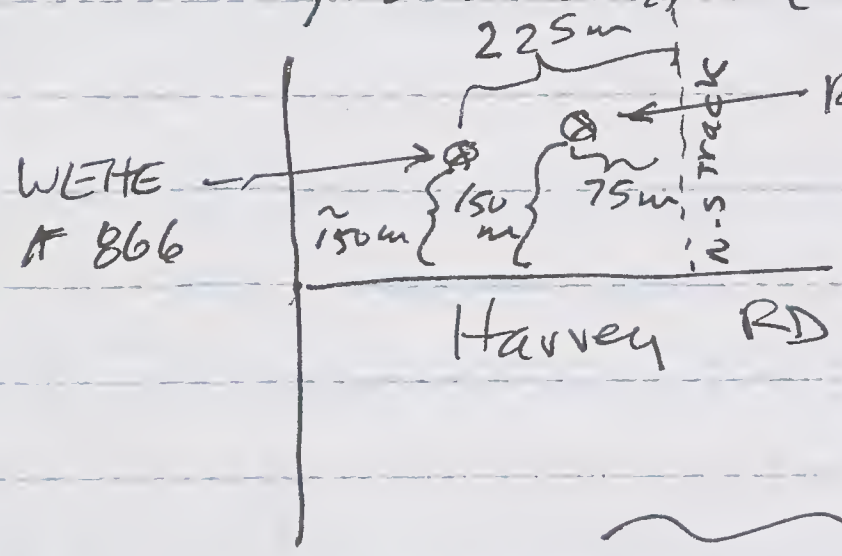
J. F. Leyden
1992

26 Aug. S. end Durakoppin Reserve (East)

I resighted a ♂ Ru Wh I had captured last year: R/R-R-T met/Blue-left
This bird had been captured on 12 Sept 91 and fitted with a radiotransmitter. It was followed for 9 days, always staying in the area around the N-S track, near the bottom of Durakoppin East. Bill and I set up a couple of mist-nets in Casuarina-woodland area W. of the N-S track, and ~100-150m N. of Harvey Rd. Using the playbacks of Ru Wh and Gr. Shr. Tit, we caught the Whistler and a White-eared HE (Gr Shr Tit approached, but wouldn't go in nets - for now, at least).

09:45 White-eared Honeyeater (new) Banded #034-39506
Color bands: met/blue-RT; Wh/wh-left
Transmitter (red) #866 (Setting: 1-1-3.5)

ad ♂ Ru fous Whistler (recap.) Band #033-64355
10:30 Color bands: met/blue-left R/R-right
Transmitter (~~Red~~ LG) #155 (Setting: 2-1-3.6)

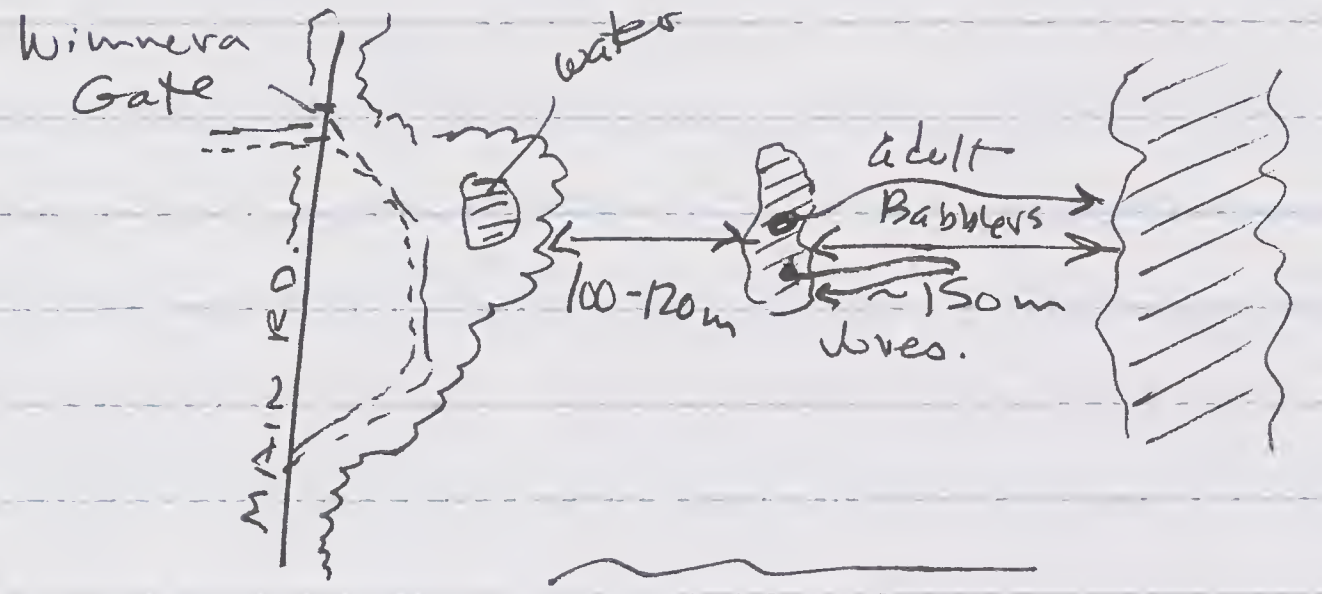



Maley Rd. W. of Kodj Kodjin
Babblers #034 and #&75 were ~75m E. of the S.-heading spur of trees where they were banded and crossed rd into hilly patch

S. of Wimmera Gate Gr Shr Tit #935 in Casuarinas on E. side of rd 600 m S. Wimmera; moved 200m further S.-

J.F. Lynch
1992

26 Aug - cont'd Wimmera gate - cont'd
White-br Babbler #135 - strong signal detected intermittently, but we couldn't pinpoint it - no babblers seen or heard. We walked E. across paddock to sparse Melaleuca/Casuarina/Jam patch of ~ 0.5 ha - group of 8 babblers here, but none were banded or emitting signal. Two were obviously short-billed (immatures). All but these 2 flew further E. across 150m paddock to large strip of brushland. Juves flew halfway across paddock, landed on short, grazed grass, then returned to their original patch. They and the adults called back and forth across intervening paddock, but Juves. Stayed put at the E. margin of the small patch




Summit of Weeds Reserve
SITE #141 ~ same location as on 25 Aug
WEHE #375 - NE corner of Sandy patch
SpCHHE #018 - on N. side of rd. just inside gate to access rd for tower/reservoir
RuWh #057 150m N. of same gate, 50m E. of access rd
GrShrTh #985 NOT found

Kellerberrin - Trayning Rd 0.5km N Jct Laird's Rd. SITE #304 100m N. of where seen 25 Aug

J. F. Lynch
1992

26 Aug - con't'd

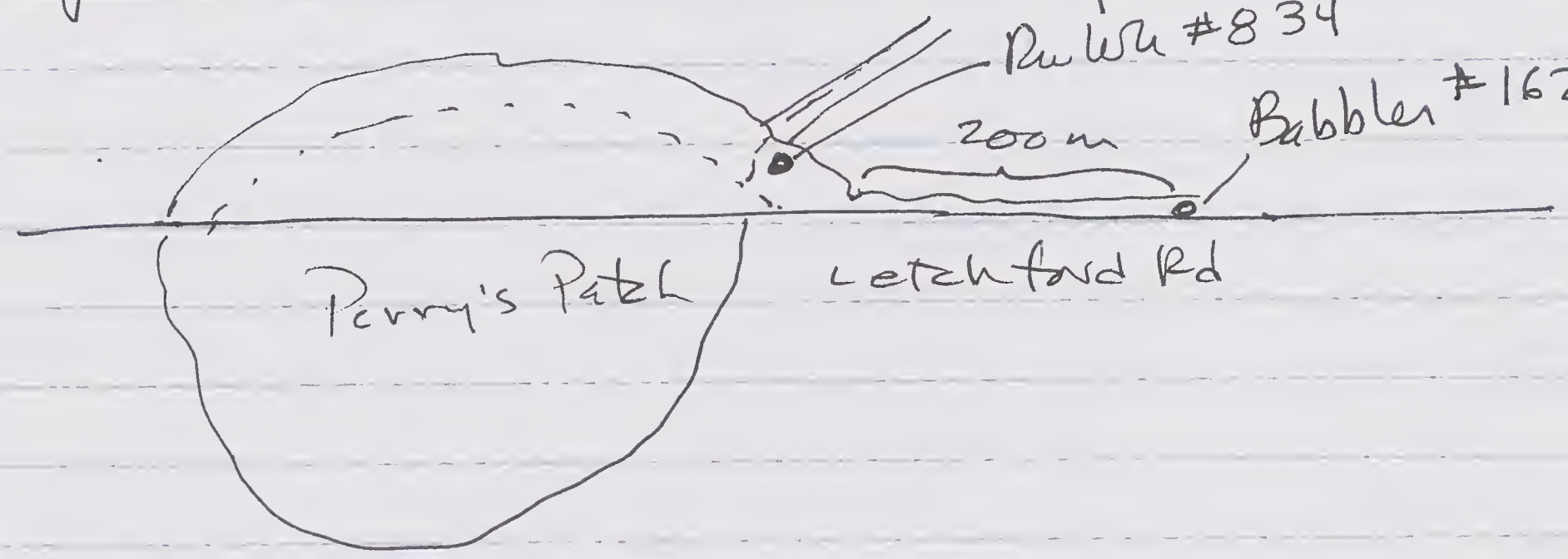
Letchford Rd JUST W. JCT K-Trapline Rd

Babblers # 125 & # 925 in usual area on N. side of rd — 75 m W. of well at W. edge of patch.

---

"Perry's Patch" on Letchford rd betw. K-T and Doodl.

♀ RuWh # 834 spotted for the first time since banded more than a week ago. Transmitter still working. Babbler # 162 ~ 200 m E. of patch in corridor on N. side of rd.

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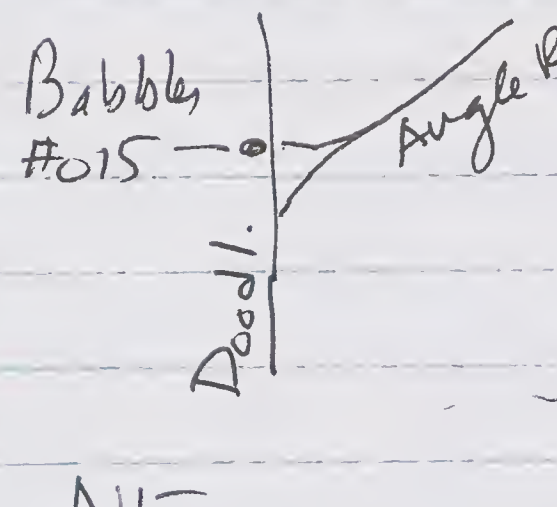
Doodlebug Rd x Angle Rd,

Babbler #015 across from N. exit rd off Angle 30 m from location on 15, 25 Aug.

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NE corner Fody Kodjn

RuWh # 094 ~ 600 m S. corner, ~100 m W. Corridor #1 (Collision Rd)

Imm. RuWh # 211 — ~ 400 m S. of dogleg (~ 500 m N. of banding site)

(WETE #205 and RuWh #115 Not found)

END for 26 Aug

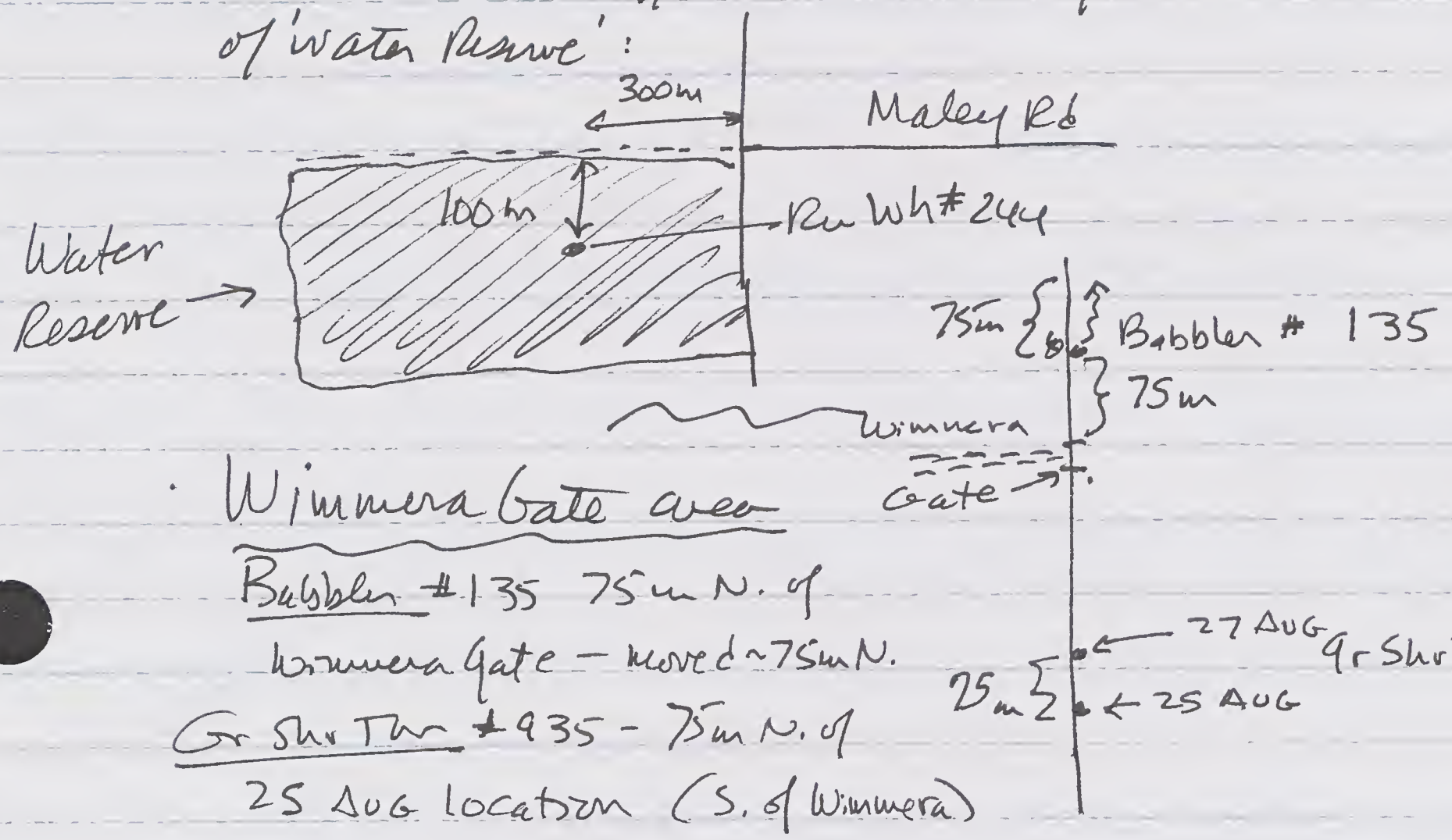
J.F. Lynds
1992

27 August Maley Rd 0.6 km W. Kodj Kodj; N
Babblers # 034 and # 875 ~50m E. S-extending
spur of trees.

~

"Water Reserve" at W. end Maley Rd (Off Main rd.)

Ru Wh # 244 (tagged at Wimmera Gate) at NE corner of 'water Reserve':

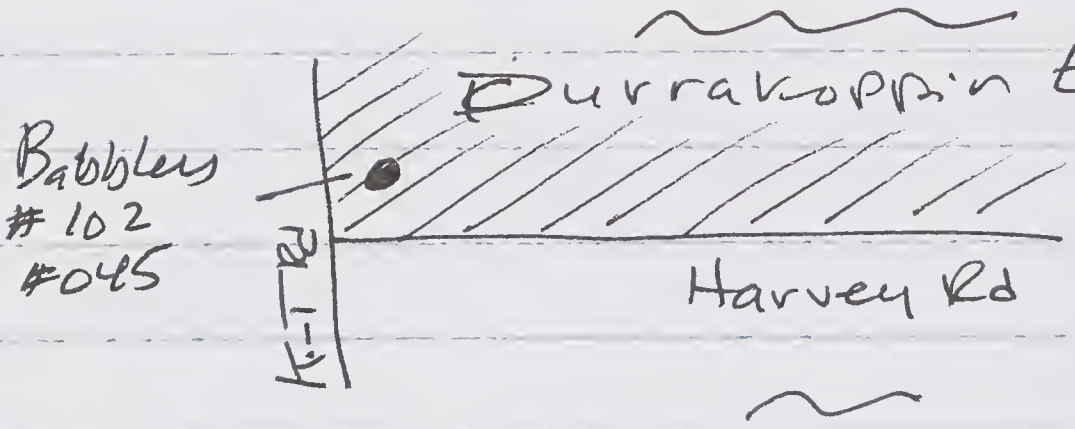



Wimmera Gate area

Babblers #135 75m N. of Wimmera Gate - moved ~75m N.

Gr Shr Thr #935 - 75m N. of 25 Aug location (S. of Wimmera)

~




Babblers #045, #102
Same area as yesterday in SW corner Durroboppin East

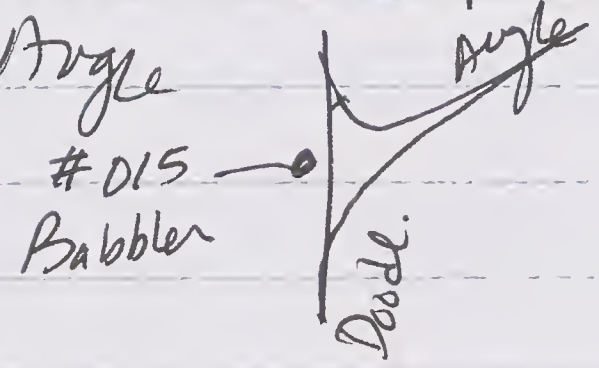
~

Corridor #1. Ru Wh # 211 gave brief, soft song
Just N. of driveway, ~100 m N. of banding site for bin.

~

Doodlakine x Argyle Rd

Babbler #015 on W. side of Doodl. Rd between two exits off Argyle



J. F. Lynch
1992

27 Aug (cont'd) SW corner Durrakoppin East - 150m. N.
14:20 Western Yellow Robin (new) Harvey Rd, just E. main N-S track
Transmitter # 356 (2-9-0.5)
Banded: #025-01701 colors: R/R-L met/blue-RT

—

16:00 Corridor #1, 200 m N. DAS banding station
White-browed Babbler (recTrap)
Band # 050-93090 colors: LG/met-R; R/R-L
This bird first captured 25 Apr 91 at the DAS
Corridor #1 site; recapt. there 26 Apr 91, 17 June 91,
21 Aug 91 (I think this is same bird I put a transmitter on - I tagged a recapt. babbler there on 21 Aug, but I also captured a couple at the same time that I did not tag), 29 Aug 91, 20 Apr 92.
Transmitter: #087 (1-10-2.0)

NO - that was 051-52550 21 Aug 91

This was the one transmitter # 871 on 29 Aug

16:50 SW corner Durrakoppin East, 50 m N. Harvey Rd and 100m W. main N-S track
ad ♂ Grey Shrike-Thrush (1st Capt. in this area of radio-tagged bird 10 Sept 90; recapt 20 Oct. 90, 16 July 91 Wimmera Gate Wimmera Gate) recTrap
Band # 050-93059
Colors: met/Blue-RT; Red/Red-left
Transmitter: # 995 (1-6-3.5)

---

28 Aug
Corridor #1 (Mission Rd. betw KK and Dorok.
Babbler # 087 - 50m N. of banding site
RuW # 211 - ~75m N. of driveway, 125m N. banding site.

~

Kodj Kodjin (NE corner)
RuW # 094 - 400m W JCT Mission Rd, ~150m S. Maley Rd.

W. of Kodj Kodjin (NW corner)
Babblers # 884 and RuW # 975 NOT found

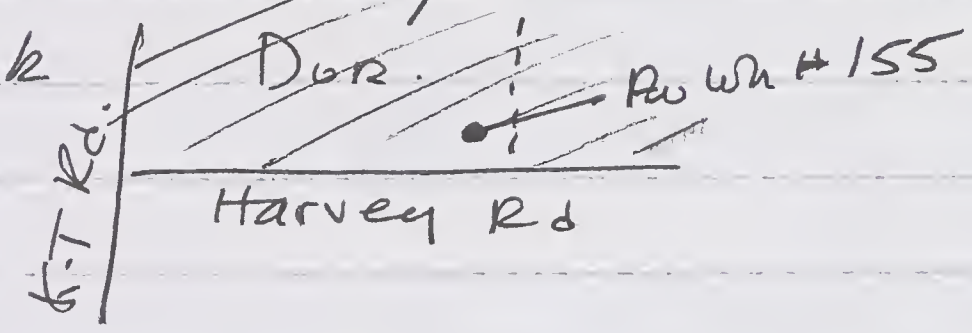
J.F. Lynch
1992

28 AUG - cont'd Maley Rd 600m W. Kodj Kodjin
Babblers # 034 and # 875 at S. end of Treeline
That extends S. from Maley Rd (banding site)
note: Grey Shrike Thrush also in tree spur

"Water Reserve" at Jct K-T Rd x Maley Rd.
Re Wsh #244 in same general area as
yesterday, but ~100m farther S. into reserve.

Wimmera Gate area Gr Shr Thr #935 same area as
on 27 AUG. Strong signal from Babbler #135
at Summit suddenly cut out. No babblers seen.
Cld be in another patch across paddock to the east?

SW Duraikoppin East
Or Re Wsh #155 just N. Harvey Rd (~50m) and
~50m W. of N-S Track




We did not find Gr Thr Thr #995, W-Y Robin #356,
WETE #866, but searched V. briefly due to rain.
Also no sign of Babblers #045 or #102
at comm Harvey Rd + Kellerb.-Trayning Rd, but we
searched only V. briefly.

---

Returned to Midland ~ 15:00. Bill left for
Calif. on the 01:20 flight on the 29th.

29 Aug I drove to Manjimup to see the
Browns. Noted Red-rumped Parrots,
Silvereyes, Golden Whistler, Brown Treecreepers,
White-breasted Robin, Spoonbill among others

J.F. Lynch
1992

30 Aug Returned by an extremely circuitous route to Rellerberrin from Manjimup
Manjimup → Bridgetown → Boyup Brook → Wagin → Dumbleyung → Dudinin → Kulin → Corrigin → Shackleton → Rellerberrin.
Saved about one hour and 100 km over the Manjimup → Midland → Rellerberrin route, but there was a good deal of uncertainty due to my lack of a good map. Nice drive. Arrived ~ noon.

Maley Rd 600m West Koly Kodjin
Babblers #034 and #875 ~ 125m E. of banding site [tree spur].

Water Reserve Ru Wh #244. 200m S. of N. border and ~150m W. of 28 Aug position

Wimmera Gate
Gr Shr Thrush #935 - 250m S. Wimmera gate

Babblers #135 NOT found - no babblers seen

Durakoppin East
Babblers #645 and #102 ~~50m~~ W. of banding site (v. near Stake A 2200)

Gr Shr Thr. #995 - ~202 m W. of Babblers

W. Yellow Robin #356 - ~100m S. banding site (~50 m E. of N-S Track, 100m N. Harvey Rd)

J. F. Lynch
1992

1 Sept. SW corner Durakopper East
WETTE # 866 ~ 200m NE site where W.Y. Robin banded, on east side of N-S track

---

UB ♂ Rr WR hawking around this area — This is where I captured & radio-tagged another ♂ RwWr last week. Also an UB Gr Shr Thrush here. Foraging on the ground rooting through litter like a thrush - caught a large larva which it repeatedly wiped against the ground.
Pr of Jacky Winters just S. of Robin banding site.
Also: Elegant Parrots (pr. picking up nesting material fr. ground), Weebill, Br HE, Gr Fantail, Galah,

#356
WY Robin V. M. banding site — I clearly saw bands + transmitter. Bird feeding, acting normally.

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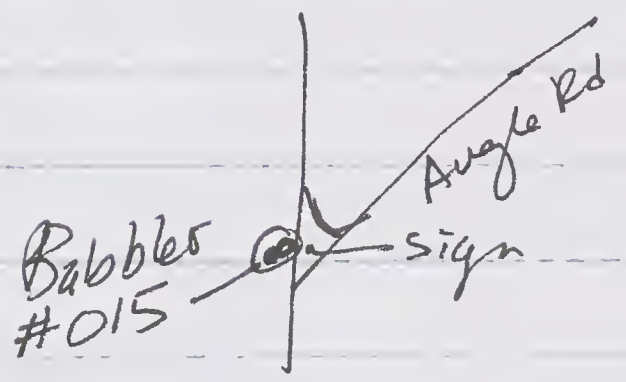
Doodlakine x Argyle Rd
Babblers #015 in group across Rd. from street sign betw. two exits to Argyle Rd




Net set up on E. side of Doodlakine 2.85 km N. Argyle Rd Jct — area where I've seen babblers (they were here again today) & heard a Shrike Thrush singing.
11:20 netted 2 Babblers after driving the flock a couple of hundred m. down the verge into the net. A few minutes later I got a ♂ Gr Shrike Thrush, who responded to a playback tape; Then 2 White Wagtails, and a Yellow-throated Miner.

J. F. Lynch
1992

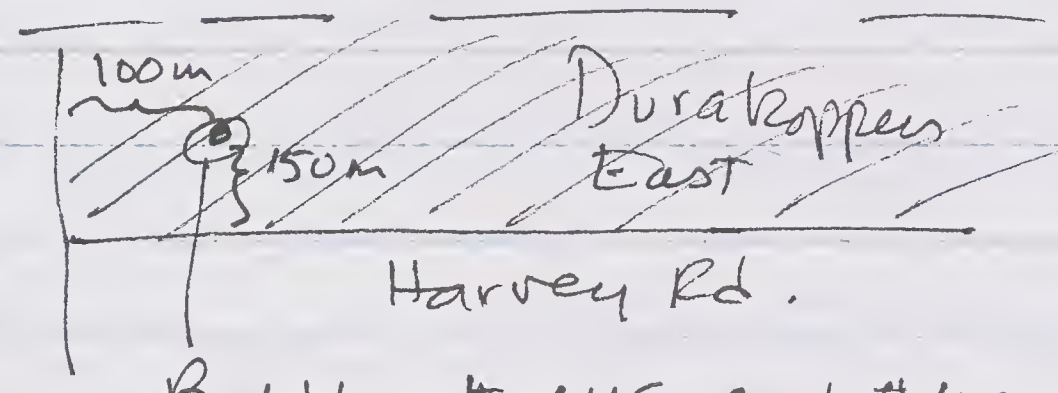
1 Sept - cont'd Doodlebug Rd 2.0 km S. Jct.
Broom Rd (1.6 km S. Perry's EW site #30)

ad ♂ Grey Shrike-Thrush (retrap) 1st capt at EW #30 (Perry's site 1.6 km N. of here); retrapped 26 Apr 91 at EW # 31, which is fairly near their site:
Band # 050-92168
Colors: mauve/met - L W/orange-RT.
transmitter (lg.) #065 (Setting: 1-9-2.6)

White-browed Babbler (new)
Band # 051-73909 Colors: LG/LG-L; met/mv-R
transmitter (red) # 396 (Setting: 2-10-3.6)

White-browed Babbler (new)
Band #051-73908 Colors: Or/Or-L; met/mv-R
(no transmitter) Sev. tail feathers lost

2 Willie Wagtails (both new)
(1.) Band # 034-39507 colors R/R-L met/mv-R
(2.) " " 034-39508 W/W-R met/mv-L
I switched legs by mistake



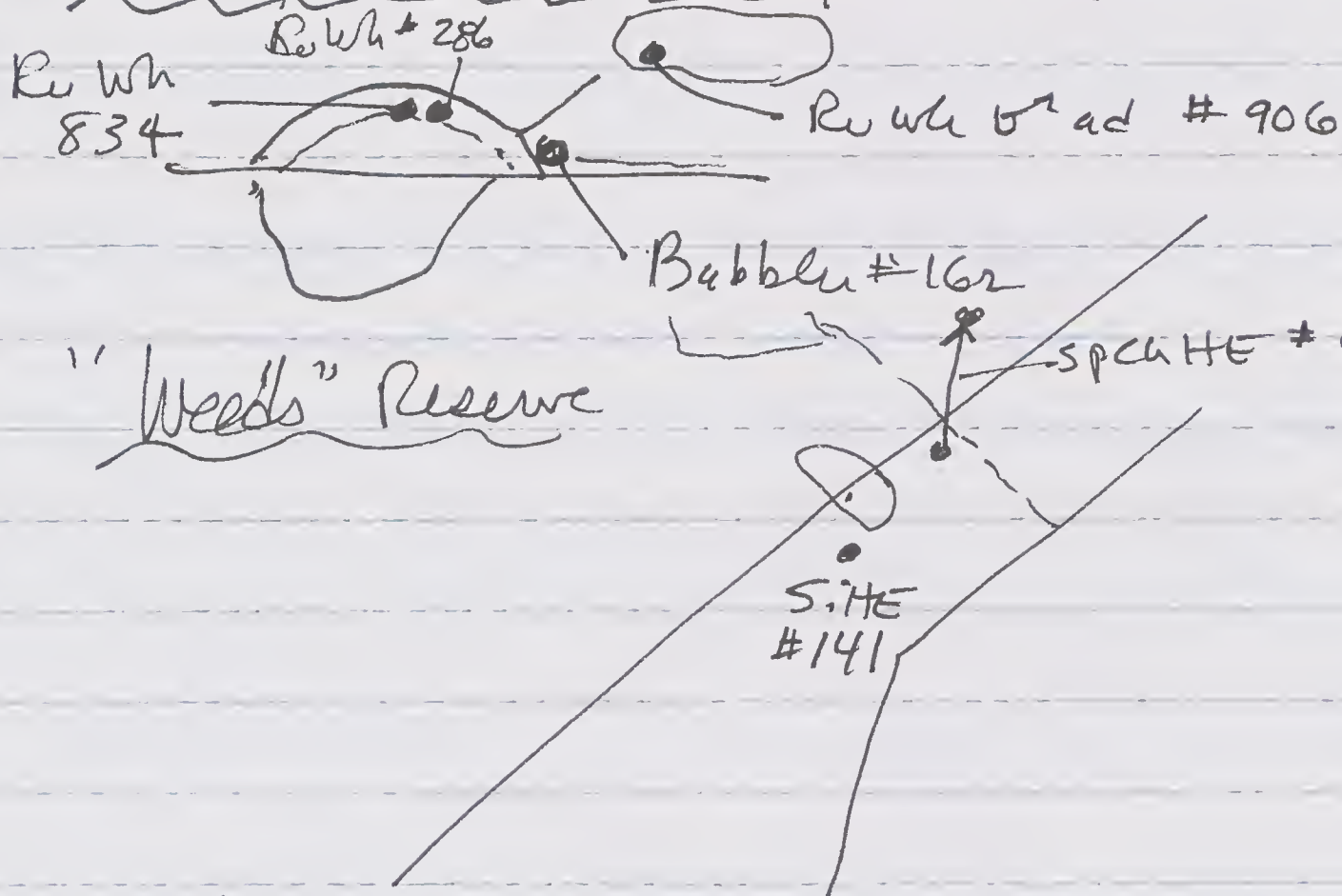

Babblers # 045 and #102 in SW corner Durakoppers

J.F. Lynch
1992

1 Sept — cont'd

Summary of DION Stevens Sightings, using lg. truck-mounted antenna

"Perry's Patch" - Letchford Rd

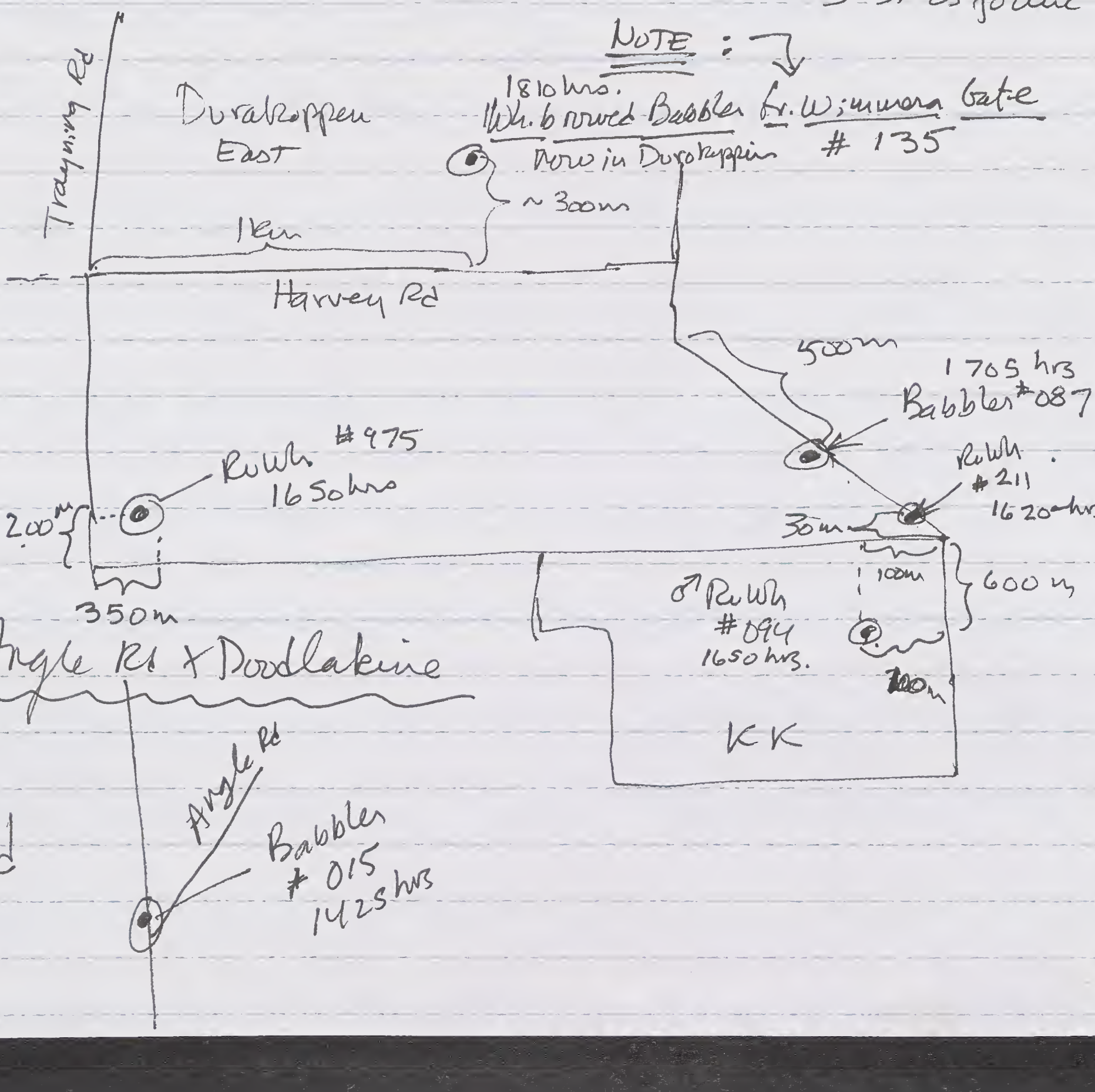



4 birds found

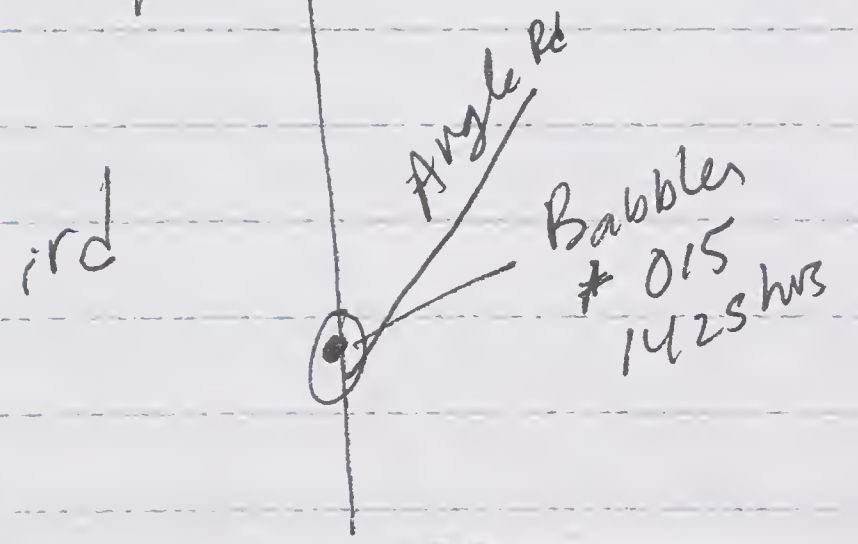
2 birds found

Duraloppin East & Corridor + Koby Kodjin

5 birds found




Angle Rd x Doodlakine

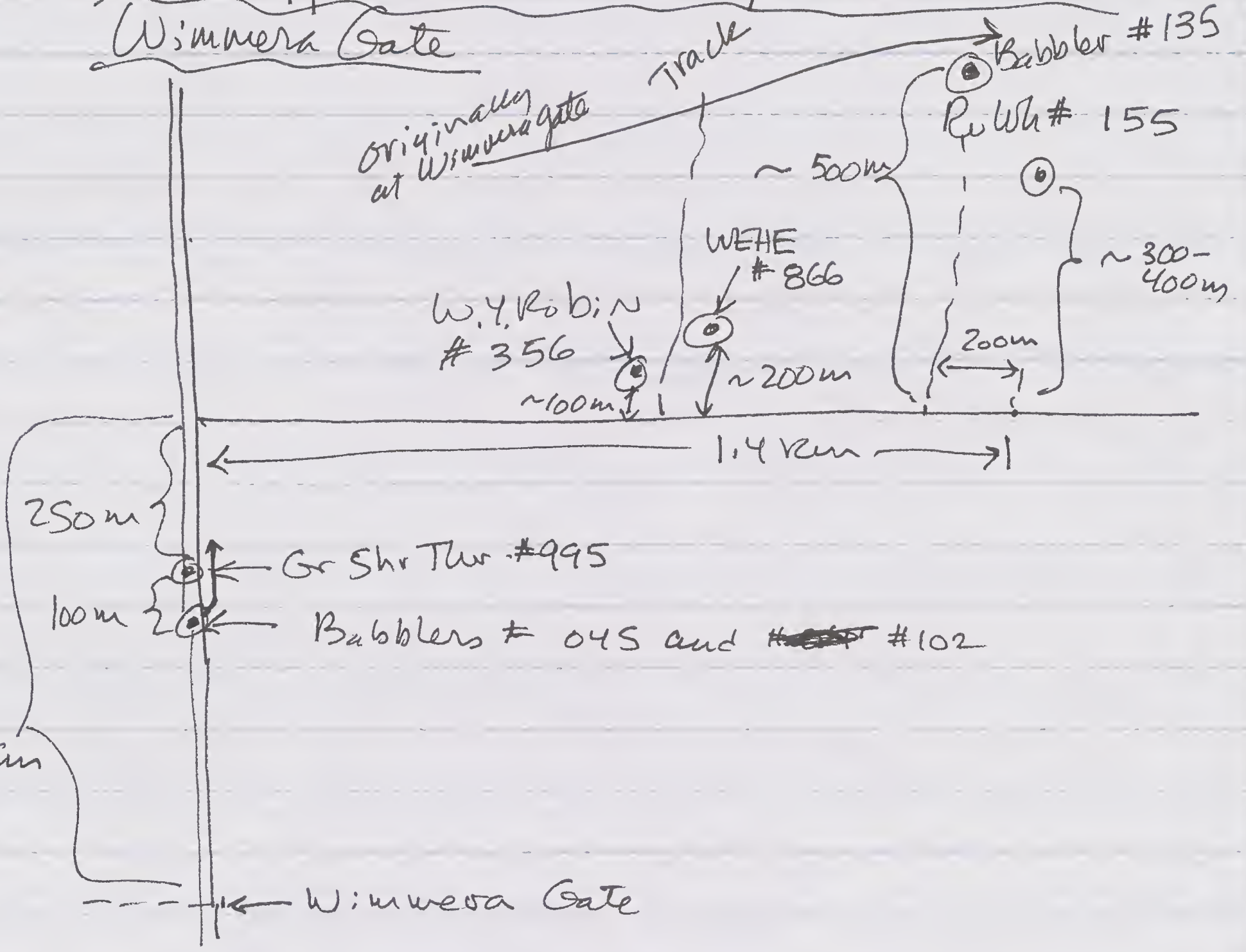



1 Bird

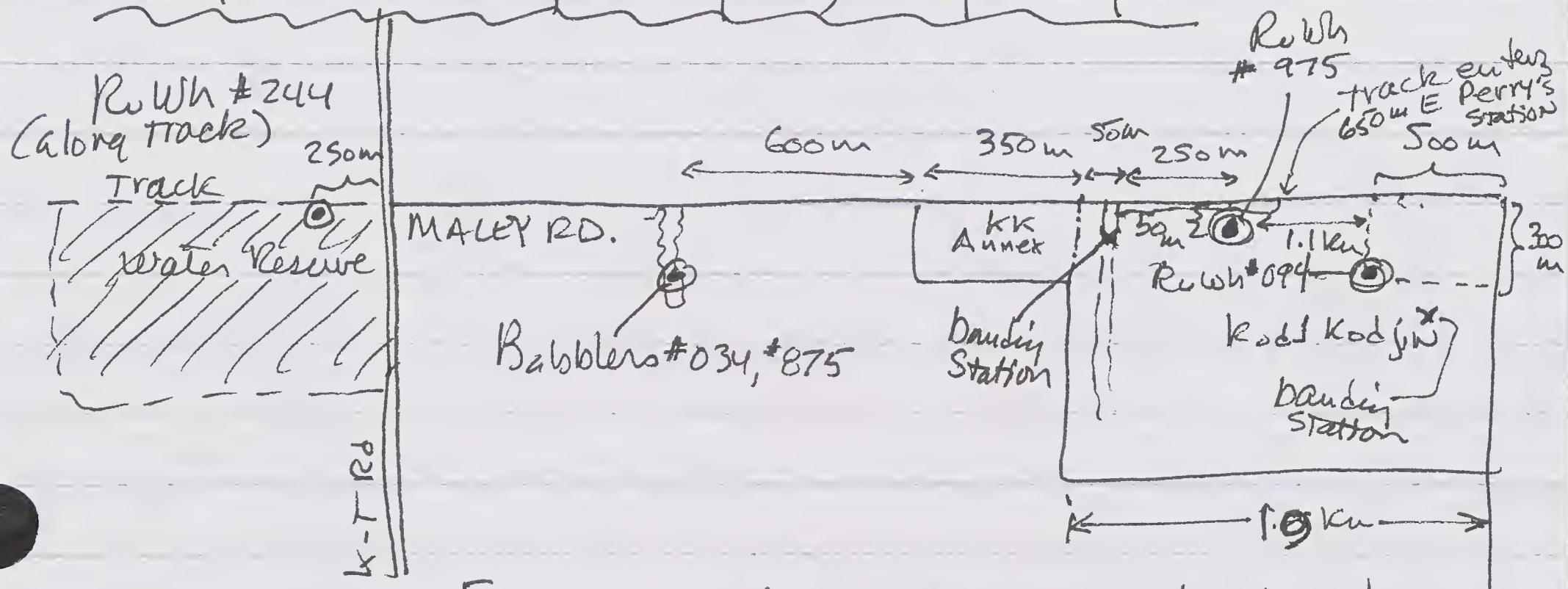
J. F. Lynch
1992

2 Sept — Dion and I worked for a couple of hrs together locating birds in Dvrakroppen, Wimmera Gate corridor, and Water Reserve

## Dvrakroppen East and adjacent Corridor to Wimmera Gate




## Water Reserve, Maley Rd, Kodj Kodjin

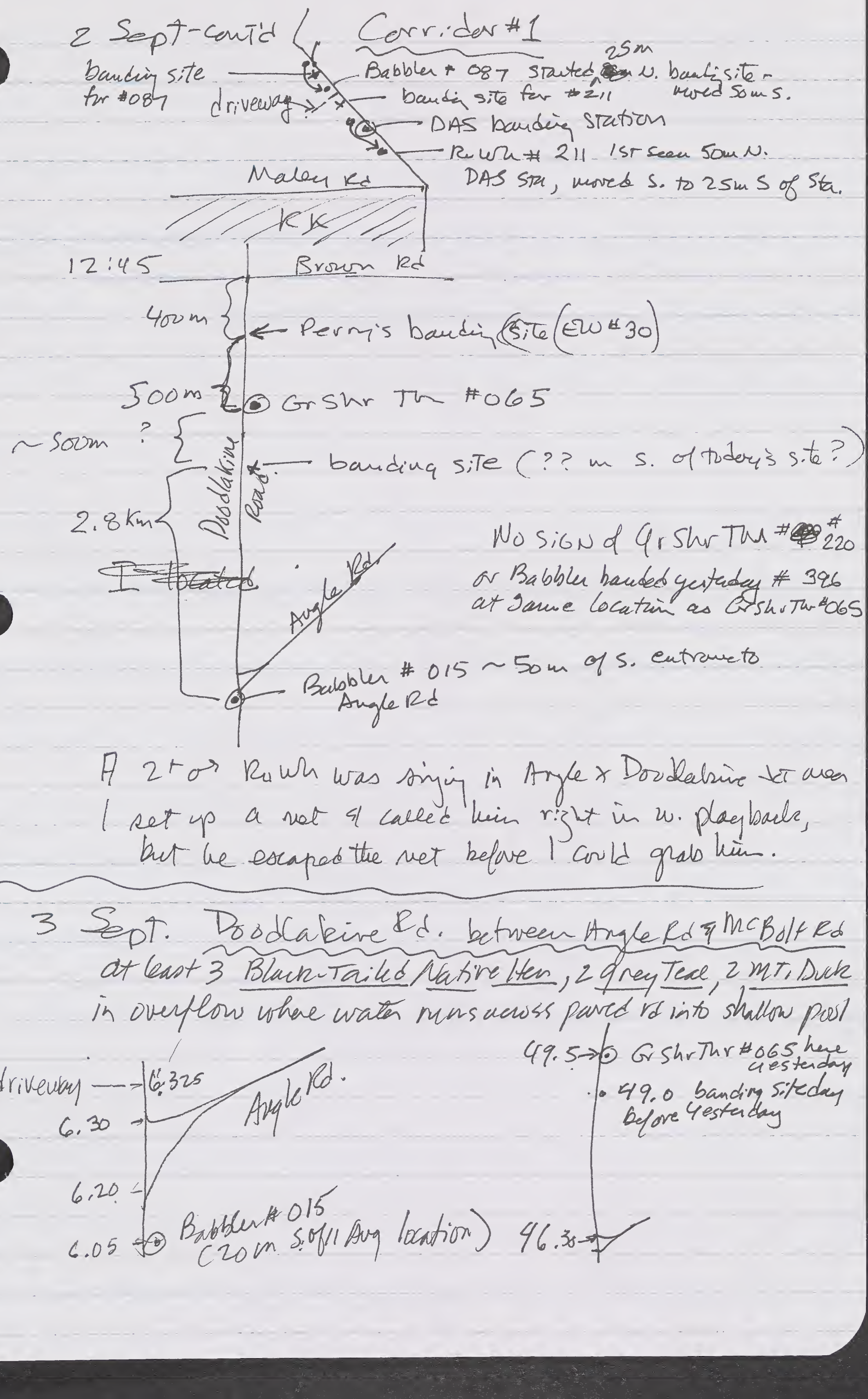



From pt. where #975 was located, I could clearly hear the signal from #094, 1.1 kms to the east (downhill vantage).

J. F. Lynch
1992

2 Sept-cont'd

Corridor #1




No sign of Gr Shr Thr # 220 or Babbler banded yesterday # 396 at same location as Gr Shr Thr #065

A 2+ or Rusty was singing in Angle x Doddakine Rd area I set up a net & called him right in w. playback, but he escaped the net before I could grab him.

---

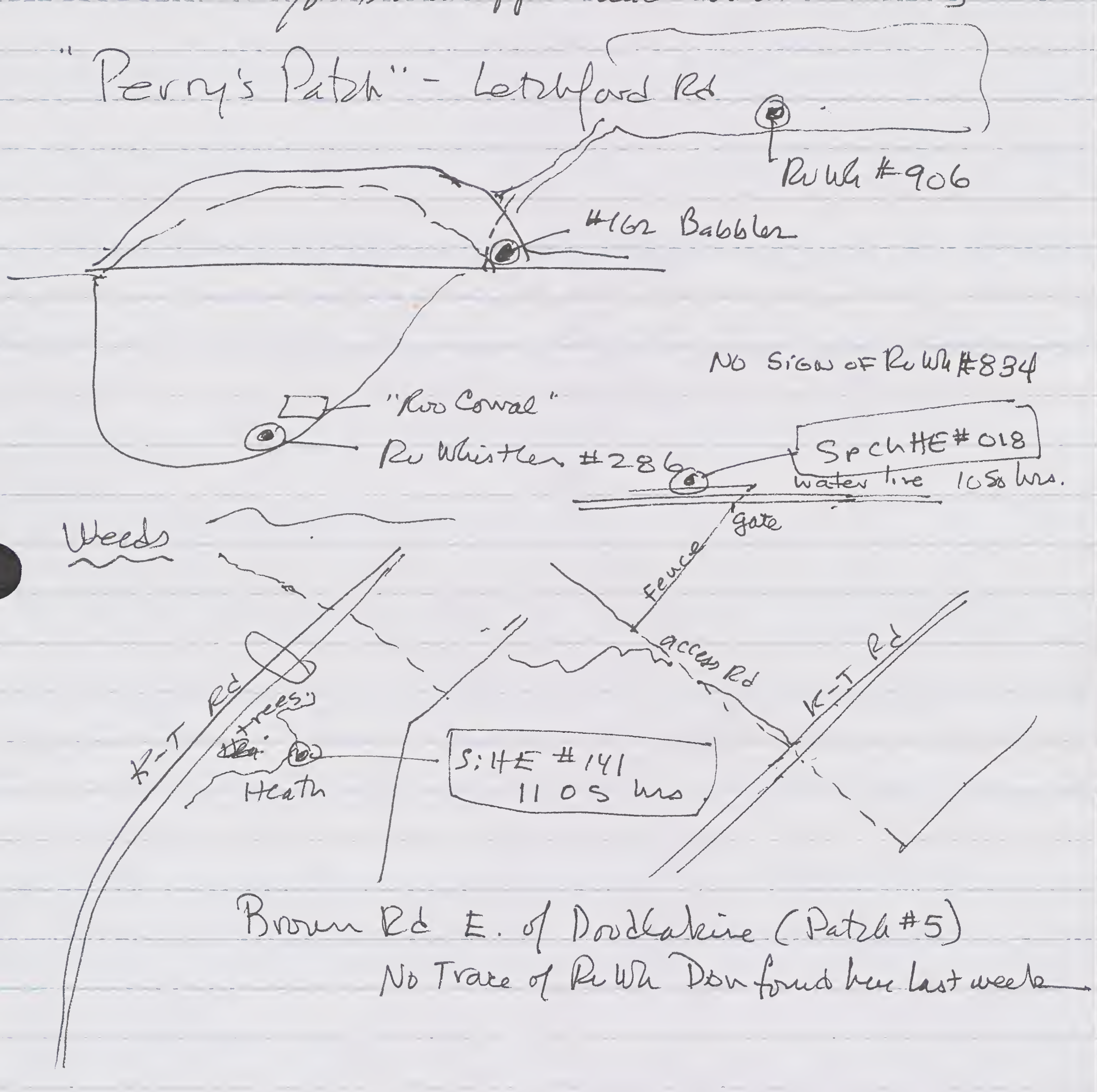
3 Sept. Doddakine Rd. between Angle Rd & McBolt Rd

at least 3 Black-Tailed Native Hen, 2 Grey Teal, 2 Mt. Duck in overflow where water runs across paved rd into shallow pool

J Plyley
1992

2 Sept. Summary of Dion Starcus sightings

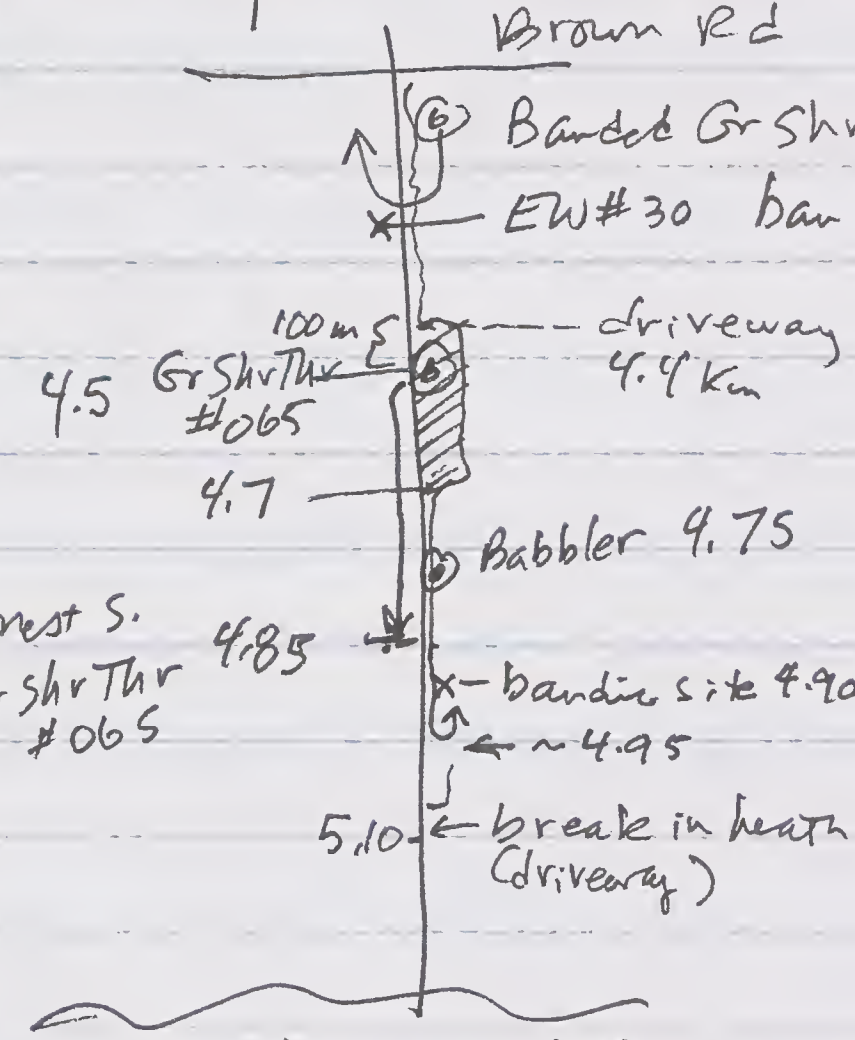
(early A.M. Dion + I worked together - see my notes for Duvakoppen and Water Reserve)




Brown Rd E. of Doddakine (Patch #5)
No Trace of Ru Wh Don found here last week

J.F. Lynch
1992

3 September — cont'd




Habitat notes: road verge is ~20m wide on each side of rd — S. of driveway it widens to ~40m on E. side of rd — white and dark mallee, low heath, w. scattered Sm → med Mt. Eucalypts (Eucalyptus conferruminata)

14:25 I captured the subad. ♂ Rufous Whistler I almost caught yesterday at Argyle Rd. x Doodlakine Rd.

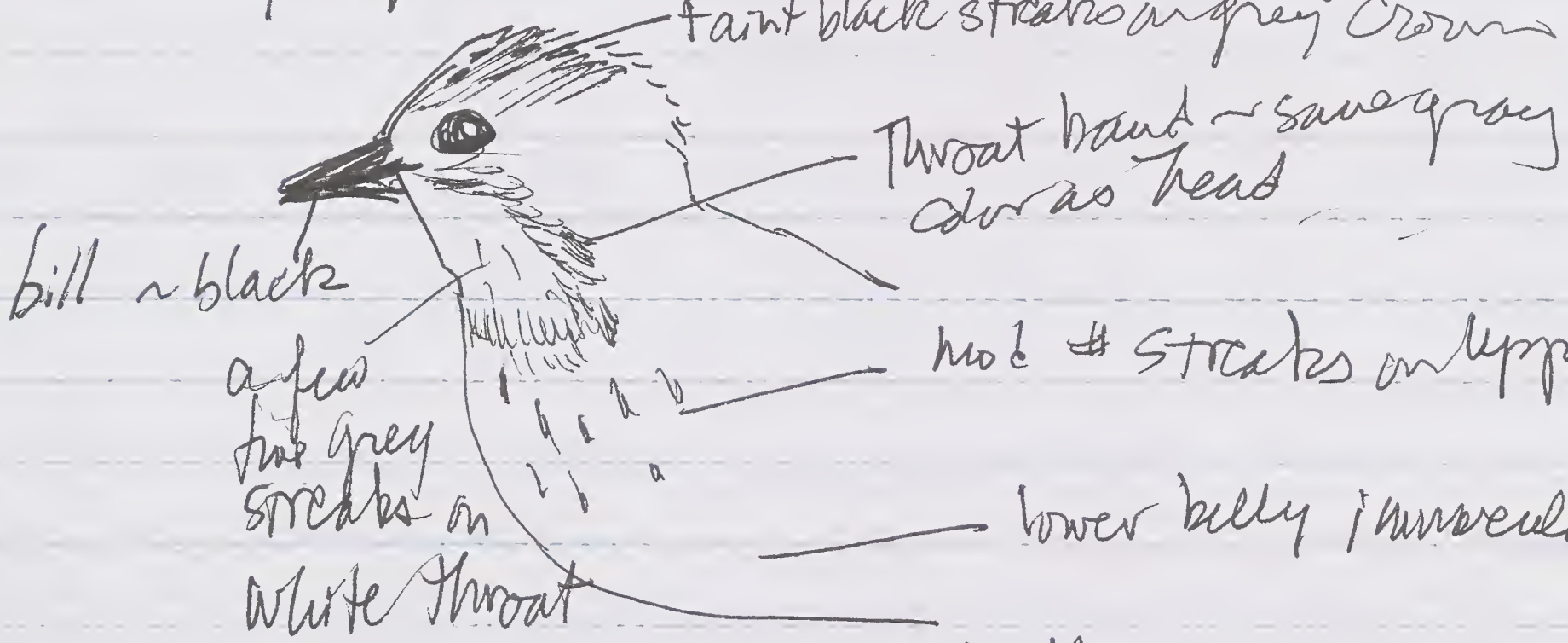
(New) Band # 034-39509 Colors: met/mv-R; R/R-L

Transmitter: 151.406 (2-11-0.8)

released 15:05

Argyle Rd

Capture site ~ 50m S. of Doodlakine x Argyle Rds.


Faint black streaks on grey Crown
Throat band ~ same grey color as head
bill ~ black
a few fine grey streaks on White Throat
mod # streaks on upper breast
lower belly / immaculate buff

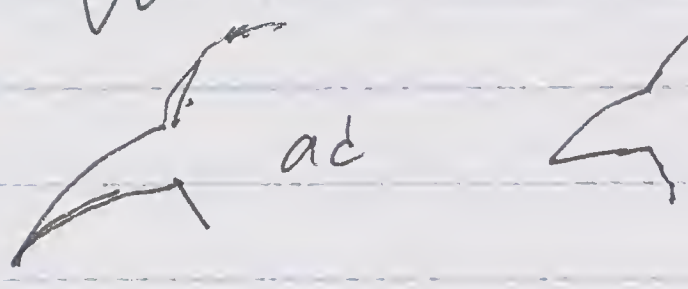
palate-or. outlined by black; Wt. = 26.0 gms

"Perry's Patch" along Fetherford Rd. betw. Doodlakine & Kondinin Rds

Babbler #162 in a group of 7 Babblers in open corridor on N. side of rd. 400m E. of E. border of N. side of patch. Scattered gums w. few bushes, grassy ag; lots of dead fall +

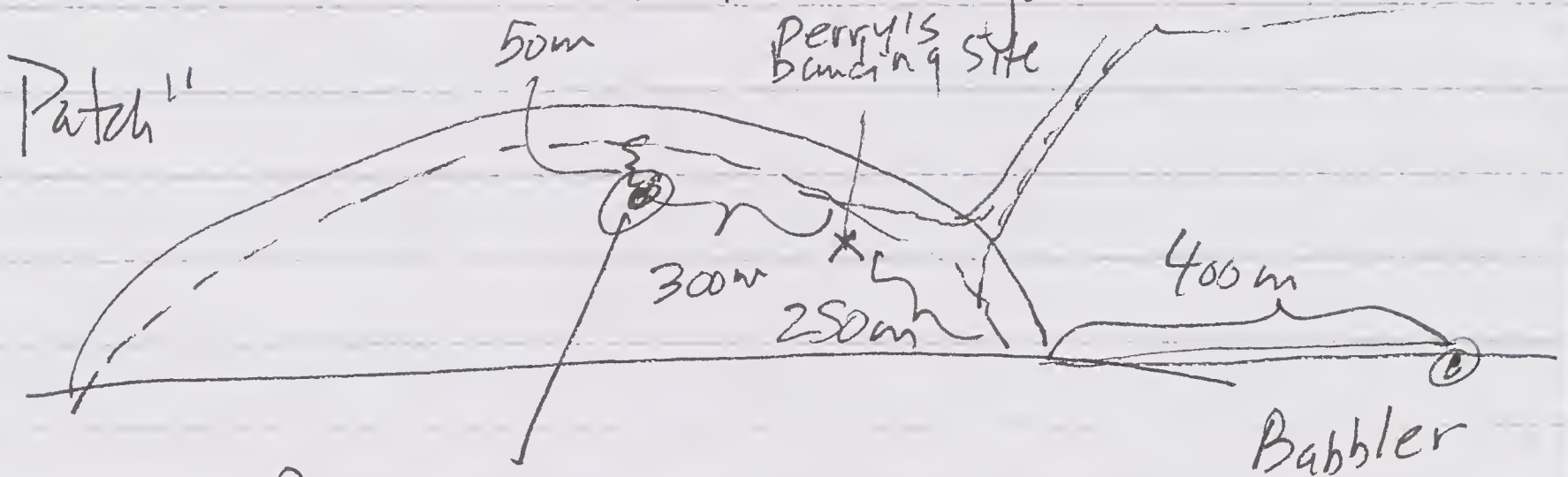
J Fleming
1991

3 Sept (cont'd) brushpiles, which seem to be main object of attention for Babblers. At least 2 birds in group are Short-billed Juveniles (I've seen 2 other groups with Juves. this week). Bills are very different




Babblers pry at bark flakes, hop on ground, ascend to ~7-8 m in gum trees.

"Perry's Patch"




17:15 My Banding site: I caught 3 of a group of ~7 ① White-br Babblers by driving group of ~7 Toward net. I escaped, one was a recaptured individual (Band # 051-52563 mv/met-L I added mv/mv alum bands to Right Leg. (captured 16 Aug 1991 by Perry's crew at this site) released 17:50

recap

② White-browed Babbler (new)
Band # 051-73910 Colors: Met/mv-R; R/Wh-L
Transmitter # 079 (151.079) Settings: 1-10-0
released 17:45

I put on a Rufous Playback, and quickly captured a pair of Rufous Whistles

① Ad ♀ Rufous Whistler (recap)
Band # ~~033-64108~~
Colors: grey (=mv)/met-L; L Green/Blue-R
↑ I changed for a fresh mauve band
(1st captured here - Dec #24 - 8 Oct 90)

J. F. Lynch
1992

3 Sept - cont'd "Perry's Patch" - cont'd

ad♂ Rufous Whistler (Recap) Band # 033-64347

Met/MV - R+ Red/D. Blue - Left+
faded - replaced 151.

I attached transmitter # 318 (set: 2-7-3.6)
released 18:10

(1ST Capt. here - Lw #29 - on 15 Aug 91 - 2M age at that time - I attached a Radiotransmitter to him at that time)

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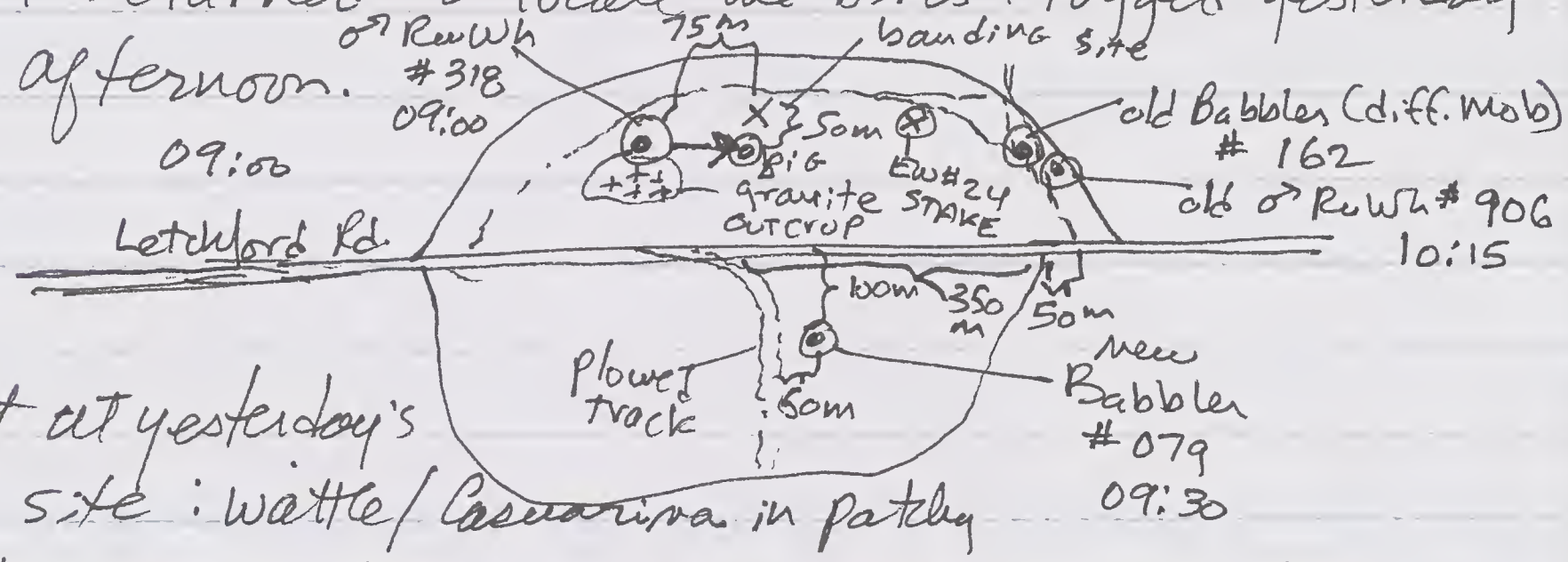
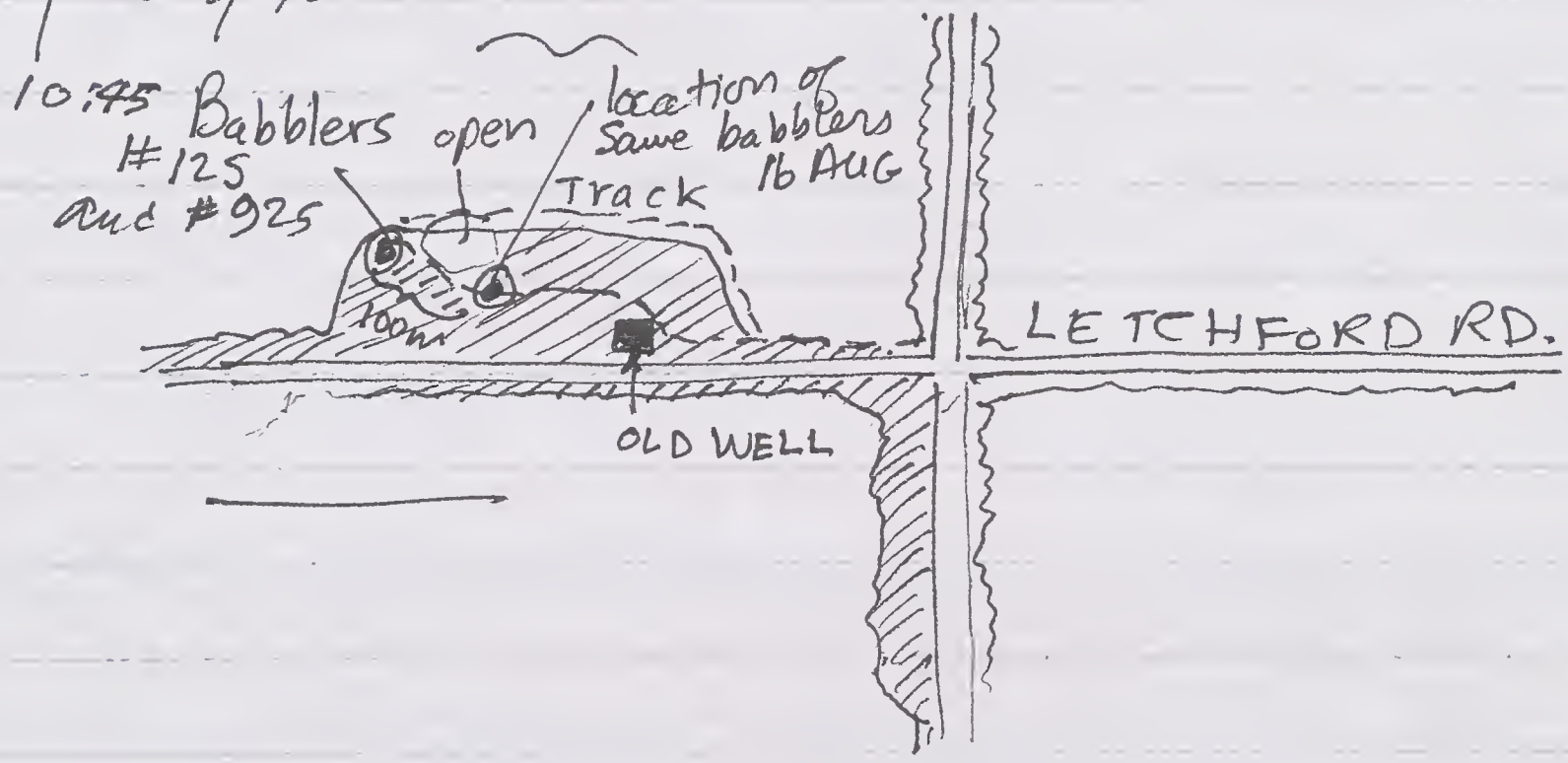
4 Sept. "Perry's Patch" on Letchford Rd.

I returned to locate the birds I tagged yesterday afternoon.



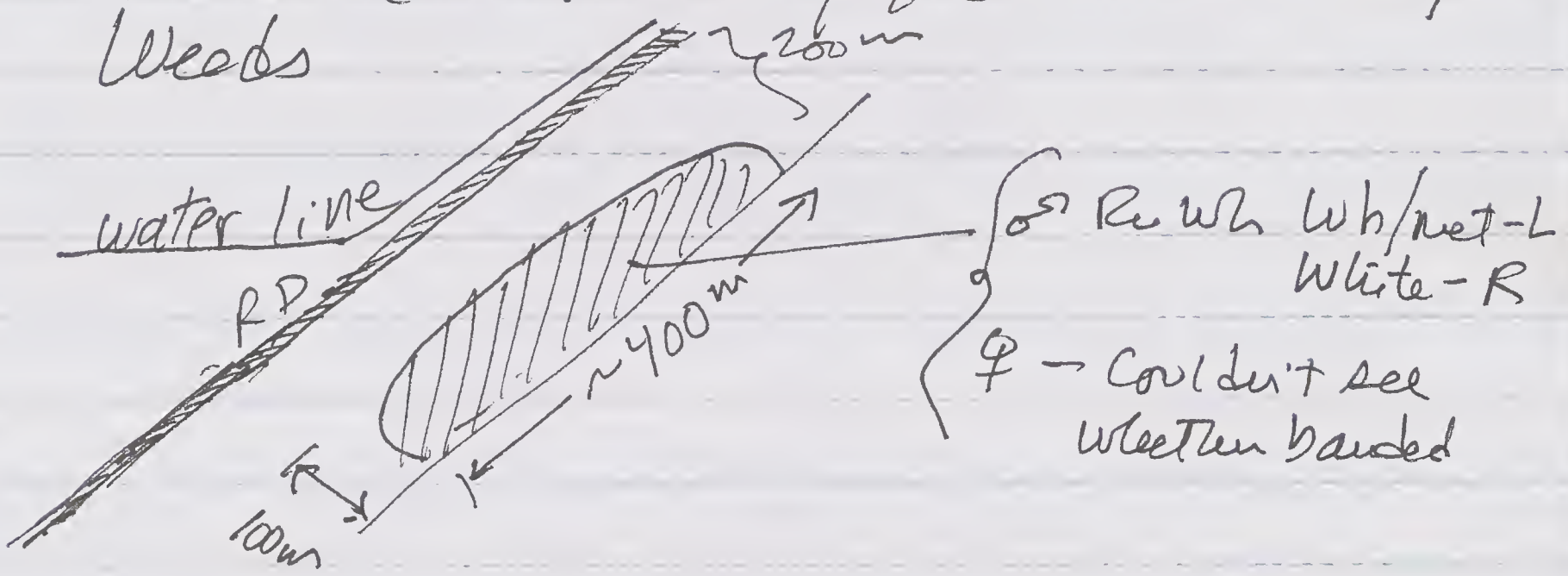

habitat at yesterday's banding site: wattle/Casuarina in patchy Thickets 2.5-4m tall, w. scattered Mallee and York gums 6-8m tall. Open understory in areas between clumps of shrubs - fairly easy to walk around here.



J. F. Lynch
1992

4 Sept - cont'd Weeds Reserve

Scoted around in preparation for Perry de Rebeira's banding trip tomorrow & the next day. Fair amount of activity SE of rd. opposite the point where the water main cuts across. Pair of Rufous Whistlers covering a long stretch (c. 400m) of the SE border of Weeds

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NW corner of Weeds - nr. reservoir
The long-"missing" Grey Shrike Thrush #985 was sighted W. of the access rd in open woodland/Salmon Gum Woodland ~50m from the open paddock around the tower + reservoir. Transmitter still attached, but no signal being emitted. No signal from ♂ RWG #057 either, though I couldn't see her or her mate.

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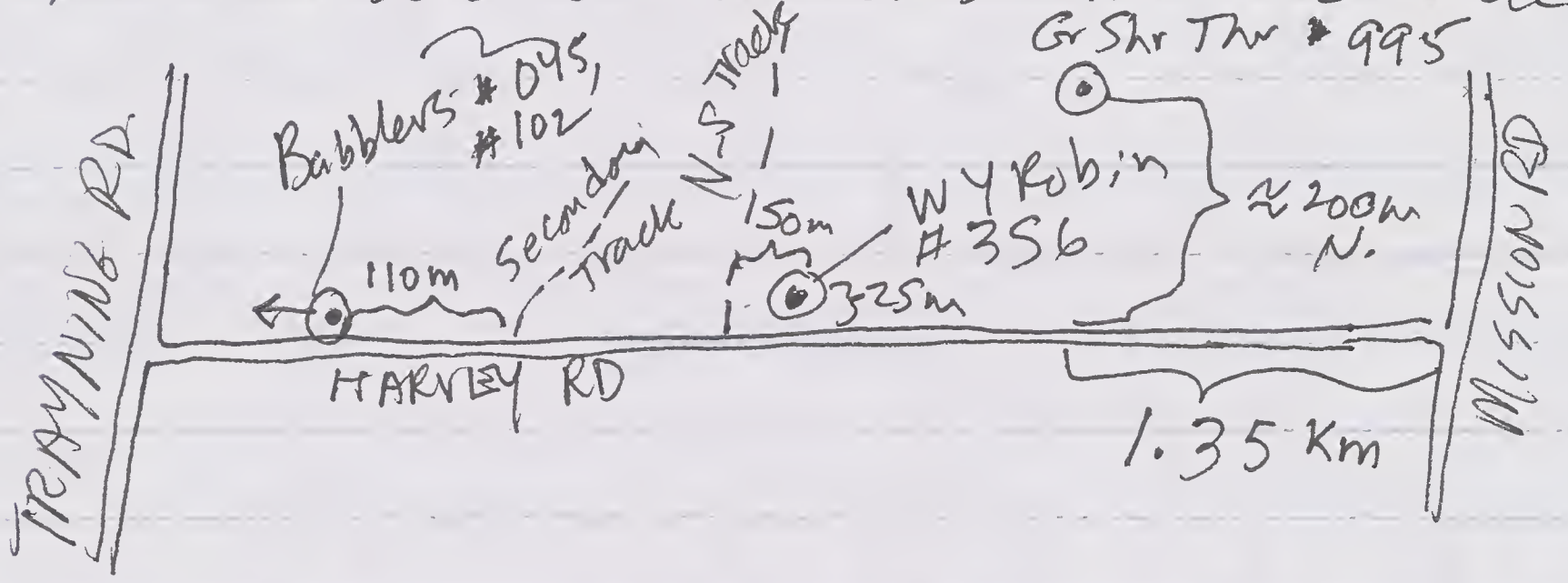
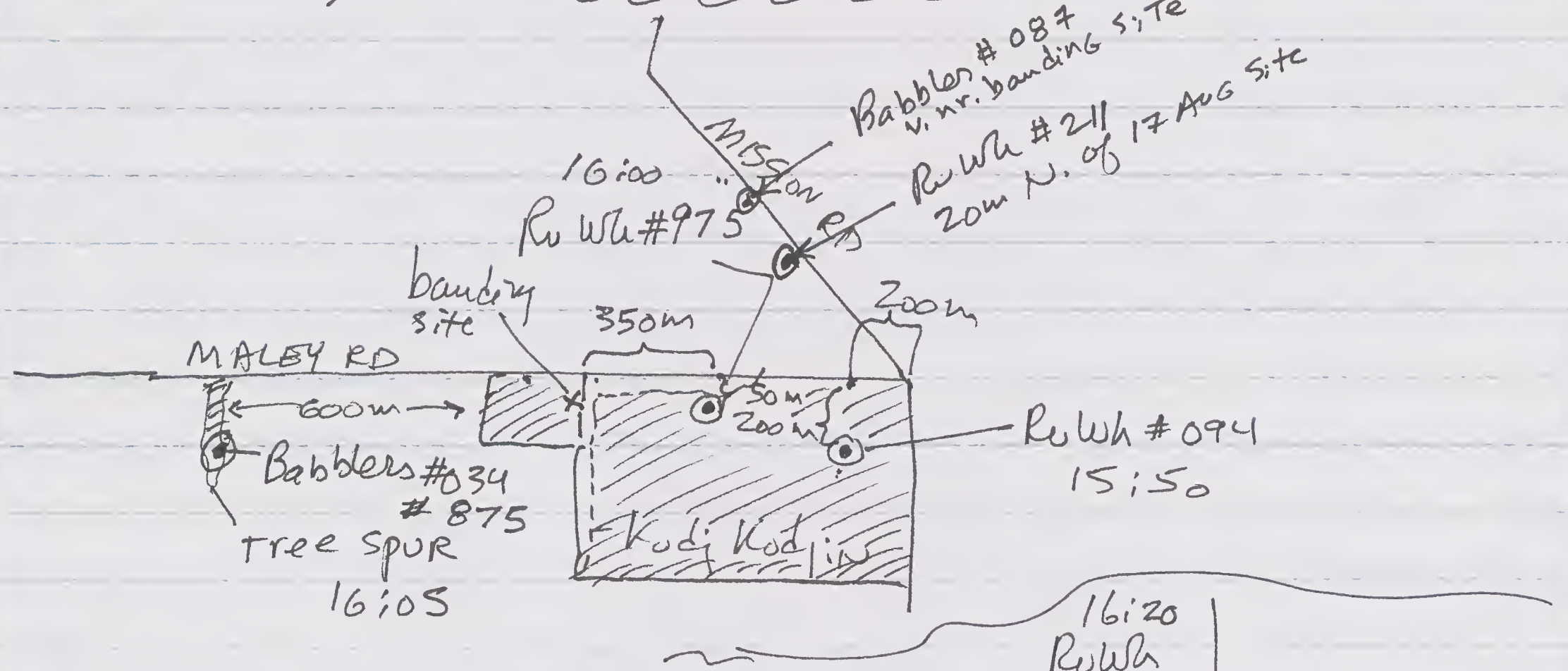
I checked the summit of Weeds for SITE #141, WETE # 375, SpCh HE # 018. NOTHING. I think all Weeds transmitters are dead.

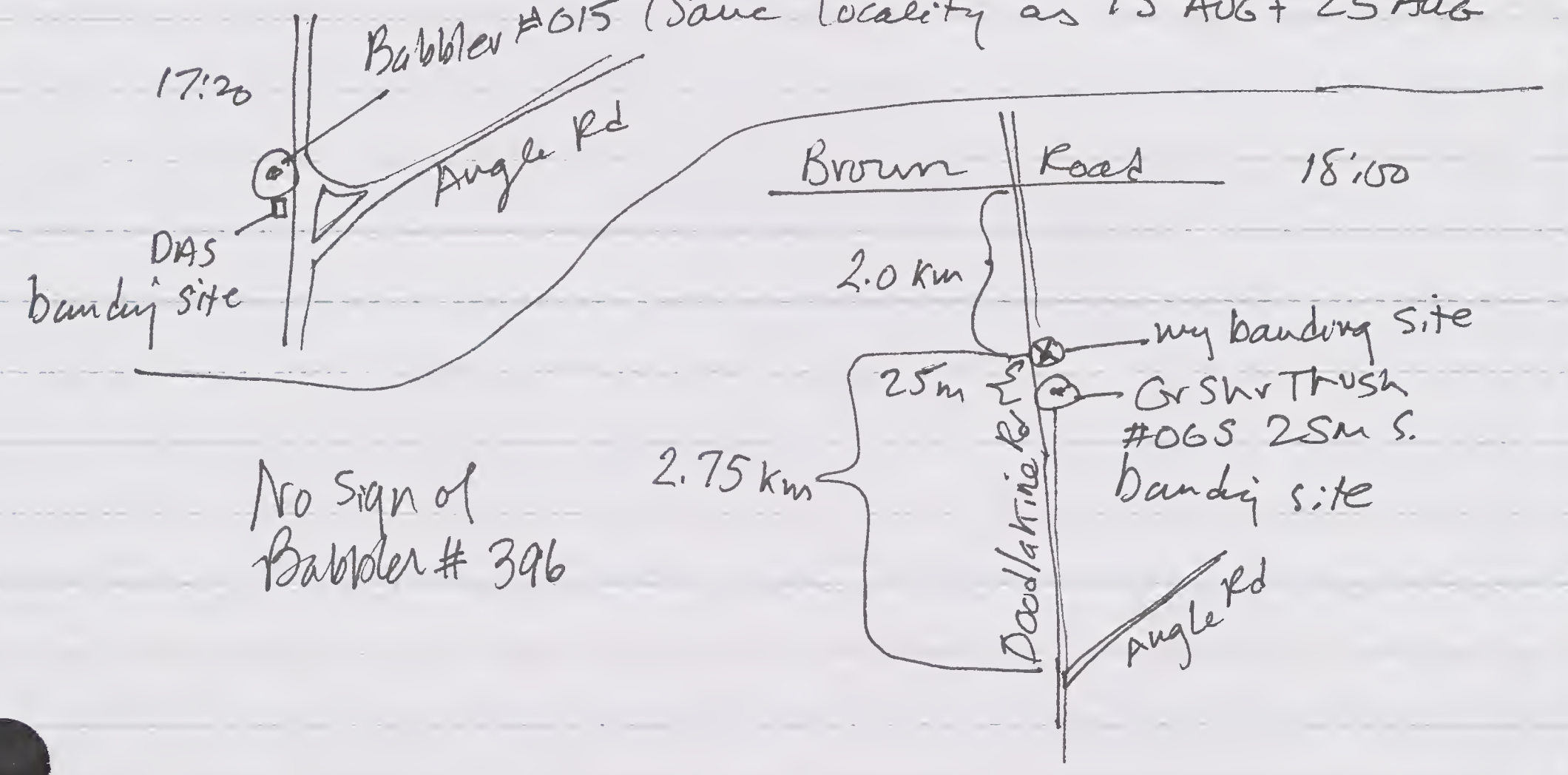


J. F. Lynch
1991

4 Sept - Cont'd  CORRIDOR #1 (MISSION RD)
and Kodj Kodjin Reserve

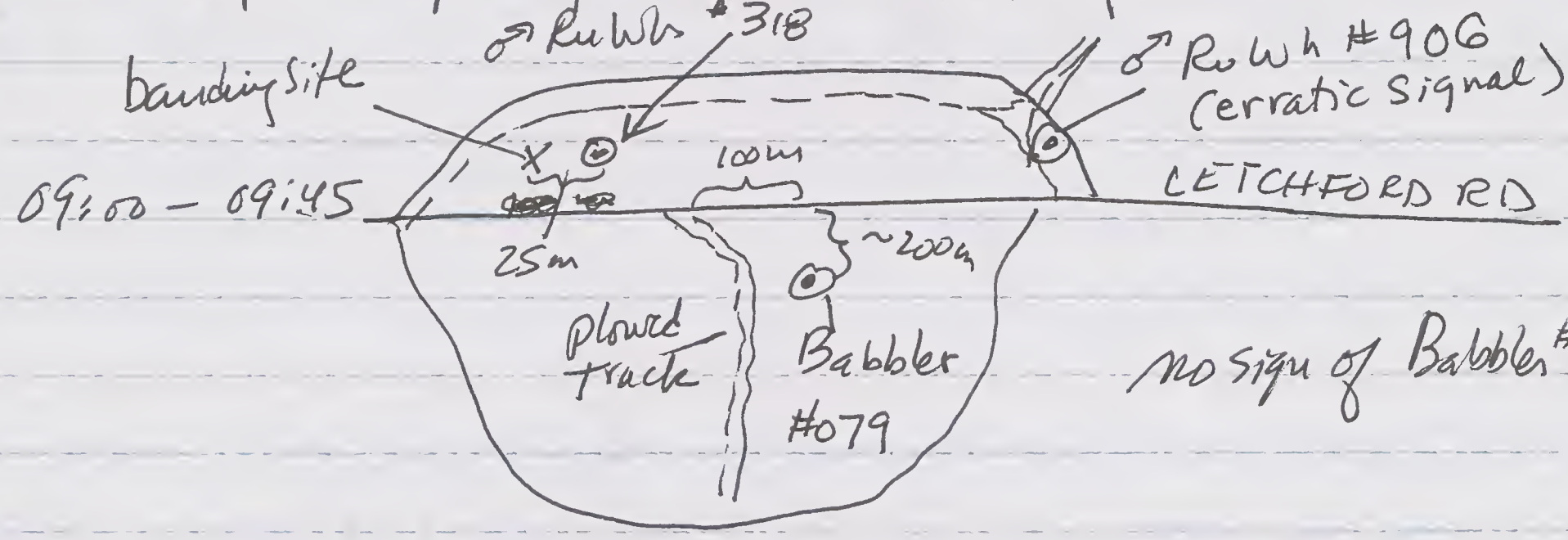



Got a brief, strong signal fr. #244, but it quickly faded, then disappeared. Seemed to be close to track in same area where Dion and I saw the bird a couple of days ago.



J. Filyaw
1992

5 Sept 'Perry's Patch' on Letchford Road




no sign of Babbler #162

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Doodlakine Rd. 2 Km S. Jct Brown Rd

10:55 Gr Shr Th #065 50m S. of banding site (W. Side of Doodlakine Rd.)

No Sign of Babbler # 396 (or any other babblers) (Echidna on rd. 200 m N. of site)

NOTE EW #31 banding site stake is 500m S. of my banding site, at place where drainage crosses rd.

11:15 Angle Rd Jct (2.8 Km S. my banding site; 4.8 Km S. Brown Rd) Babbler # 015. 30m S. DAS banding site on W. Side of rd. Red Wattlebird seen nearby, but I couldn't see if it was banded. No Signal from Transmitter.

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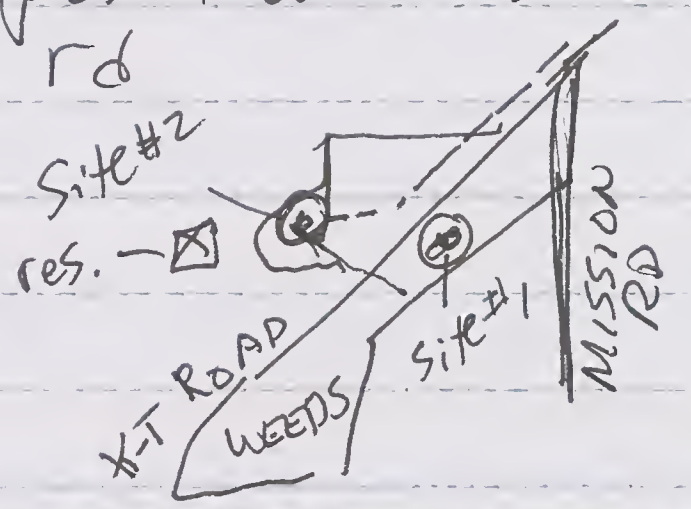
Perry & Alma de Rebeira and Rod Smith are netting today in Weeds on my behalf. Two sites – the NW corner N. The reservoir, and The main part of Weeds SE of paved road and opposite the point where the water line heads away from rd



J. F. Lynch
1992

5 Sept - cont'd Although There were both Shr. Re-Thrushes and Whistlers at both sites, The only one of These spp. captured was The ♀ #057* on which I'd put a radio-transmitter on 9 Aug. Transmitter still attached, but dead. It was starting to peel off, and I used super-glue remover (acetone-based) to tease the transmitter all the way off. I didn't replace it, as the skin looked pretty raw where the old transmitter had been attached. General catch of birds was disappointing at both sites - a total of ~ 20 birds, mostly Thornbills (all 3 spp), Weebills. Most interesting catch was a Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo.

Rewh #057 recapt. w/ dead transmitter

* #057 captured at spot where ♀ Shr Thr #985 sighted on 10 Aug.

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Black-Tailed Native Hens seen along Letchford Rd just East Kellerberrin-Trayning Rd. (3) and on Brown Rd 1 Km E. Doodlakine (4-6).

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6 Sept.

07:00 Group of Wh-br. Babblers seen along the main Kellerberrin-Trayning Rd ~ 200m S. Jct. Letchford Rd. No signal from the transmitters I'd placed on 2 Babblers East W of K-T rd on Letchford Rd, so I think this is a separate mob.

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-While I was locating Babblers #125 and #925 in their usual patch on N. side of Letchford Rd I heard a Rufous Whistler Dingoing

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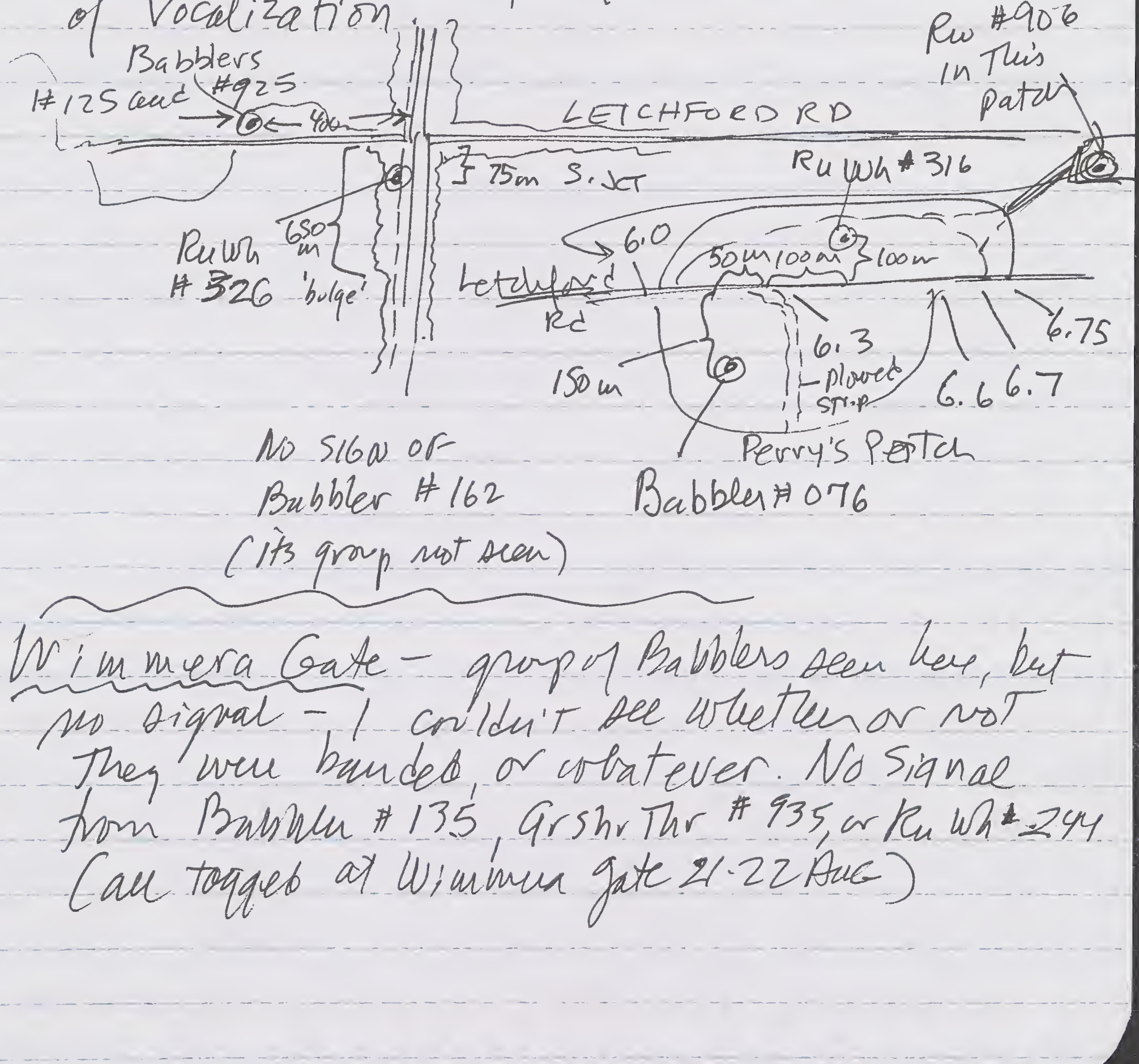
1992

6 Sept – arr T'd
along Kellerberrin-Trayning Rd just S. of the Letchford Jct. Bird was in a "bulge" of vegetation on the W-side of the rd – ~25m wide strip of Acacia and Sandalewood woodland (cut 2-3m) with scattered mallee to 8m tall. I set up a net, started my playback loop, and caught bird within a minute's time.

Rufous Whistler (neon) 1mm. ♂
Band # 0 34-39510 (colors: Lgr/R-L met/mV-R)
Transmitter # 151.326 (med)
(setting 2-8-1.5)
Bird had been singing frequently, but short bursts of vocalization




No sign of
Bubbler #162
(its group not seen)

Wimmera Gate – group of Babblers seen here, but no signal – I couldn't see whether or not they were banded, or what ever. No signal from Babbler #135, Grshr Thr #935, or Rufous #294 (all tagged at Wimmera Gate 21-22 Aug)

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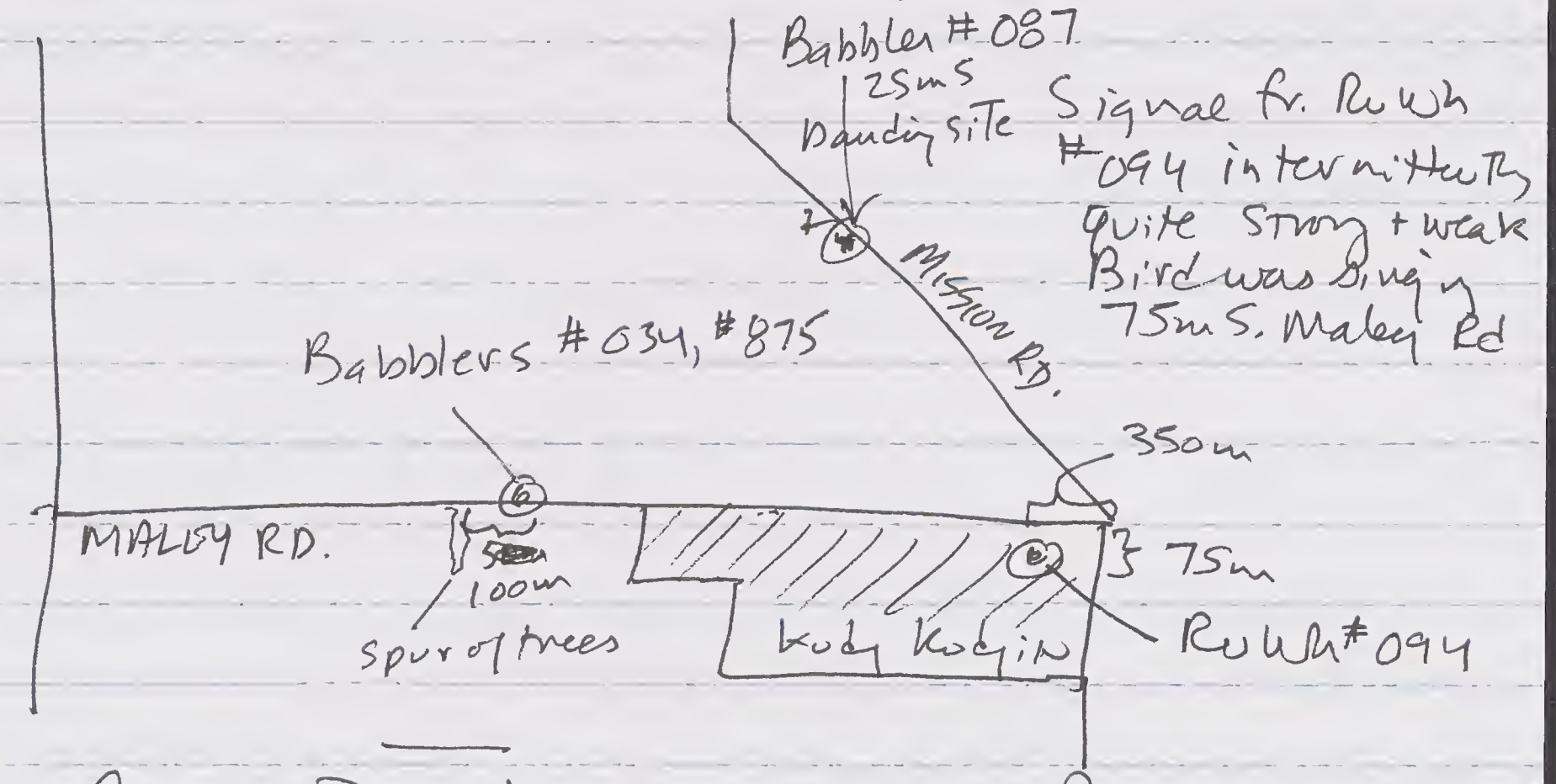
6 Sept - cont'd  Maley Rd - Kody Kodgin - Corridor #1




NW Corner Dora Koppen West - Penny's group had moved down here from Weeds in mid-morning. Most nests in a clump of White Mallee - Melaleuca about 100 - 200 m from the point where the track along the N. side of the reserve leaves the main rd. and crosses the water line. RoWh and GrShTh calling - I tried RoWh tape first, but bird would'nt come closer than ~ 150m. Then put on Grey Shrike-Thrush tape, and very quickly caught a subad. ♂ GrShTh.

11:45 Grey Shrike-Thrush (new) ♂ subad. Band # 051-72126
colors: 1) Blue/L. green - L DBlue/met - Rt.
Transmitter # 150.956 (1-5-2+) med.
released 12:25.

photos of white mallee

12:30 1 imm. Golden Whistler (new) came in to RoWh playback!
Band # 033-64595 Colors: BL/met-L R/Bl-R
Transmitter # 151.294 (med) (2-6-3.4)
released 12:45

photos  Color notes: throat pale grey faintly speckled w. sl darker flecks; breast + belly pale buff; dorsum grey; edges of primaries rufous; yellow bill; black bill

J. F. Lynch
1992

6 Sept - cont'd

Small intensely blue wildflower is called "Blue Squill"

note: at 2 different netting sites, White-eared FE approached net and vocalized agitatedly when I played Rentons Whistler tape. Stayed too high in White Mallee to get conjat.

14:30 no sign of Babbler # 015 at Jct. Angle x Doodlakine Rd. No sign of PaWh #406 - I searched ~ 1 km in both directions on Doodlakine, and along Angle Rd.

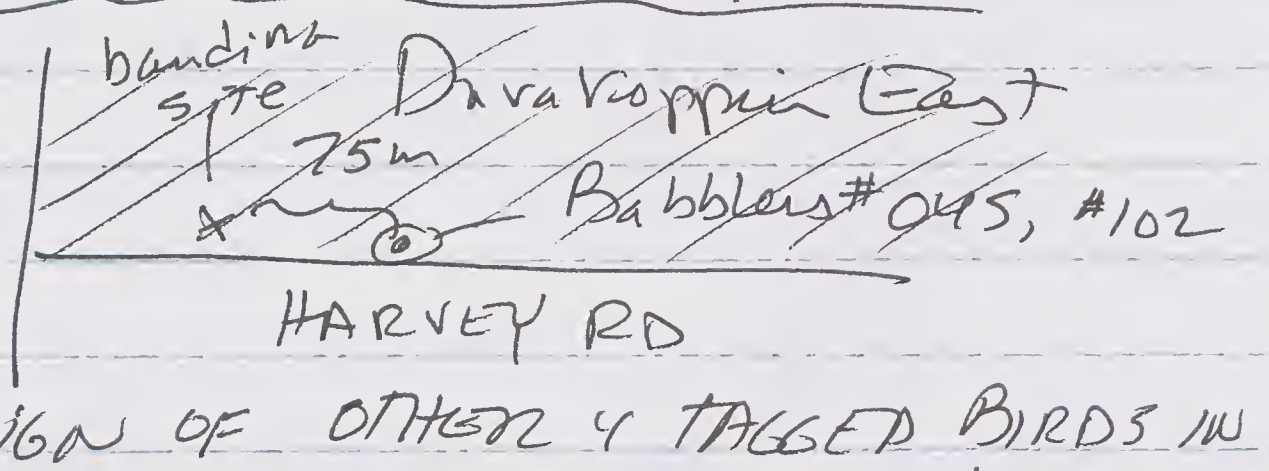
Doodlakine Rd 2 km S. Broom Rd

15:00 No sign of recently banded Babbler (# ) or Shrike Thrush (# ), However, I did see a group of ~ 6-7 Babblers ~ 100m S. of the banding site - no signal from these. NOTE: at least 2 short-billed Joves. with this bunch.

Spent a couple of hrs w. Peg + Co

SW Corner Dura Roppen East

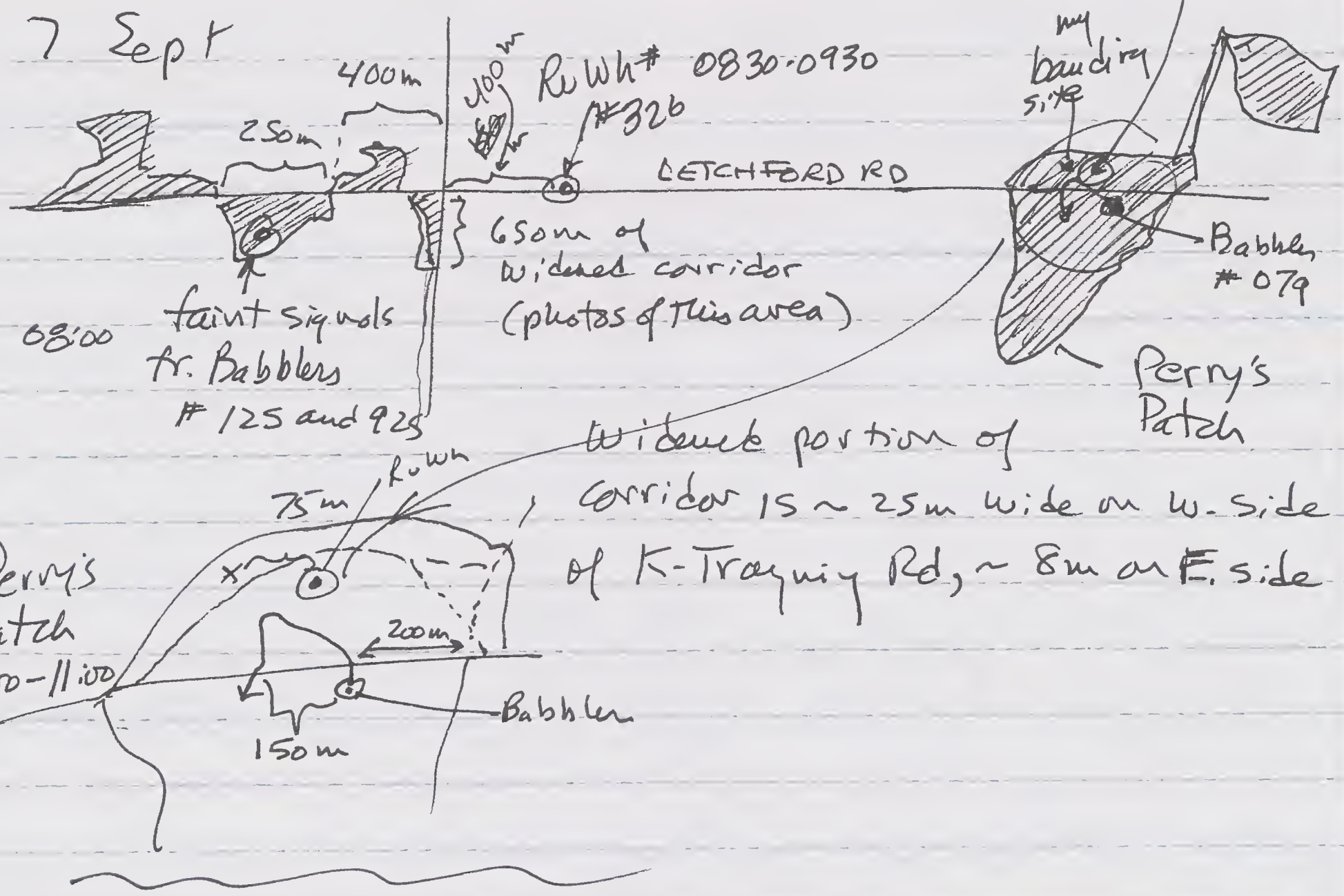
17:30



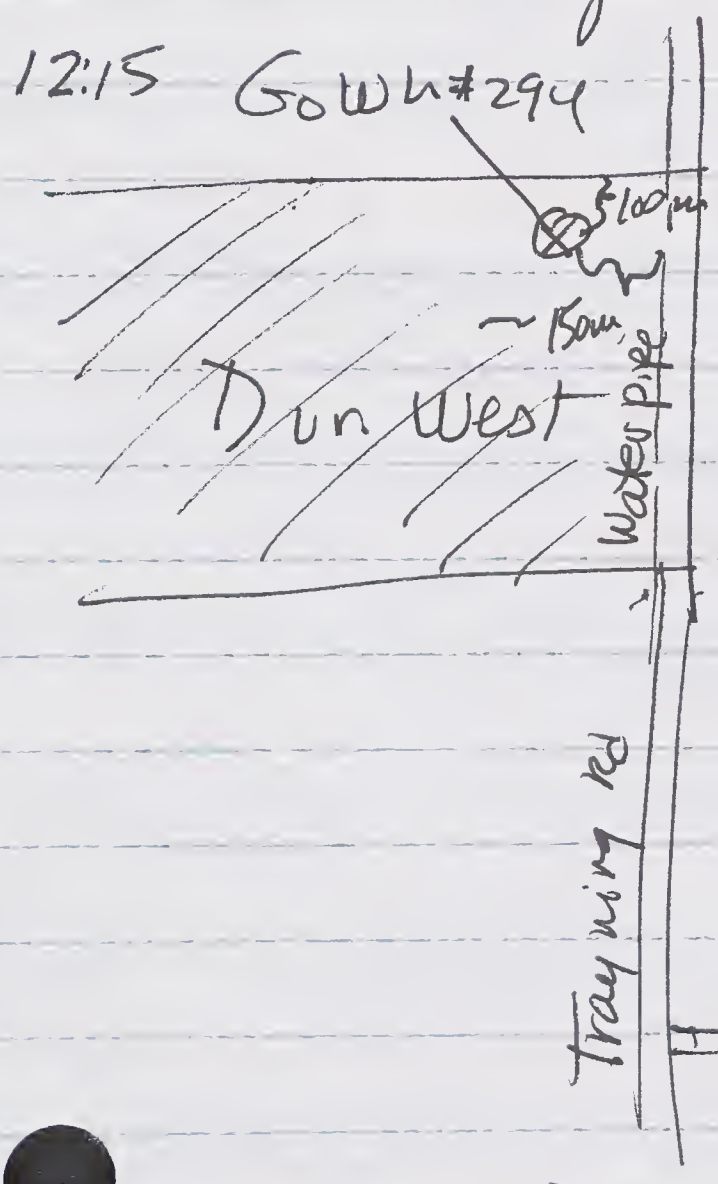

NO SIGN OF OTHER 4 TAGGED BIRDS IN SW Dura Roppen: 6 SW Jhn #995, WYR #356, WGHE # 866, Ru Whistler #155.

J. F. Lynch
1992

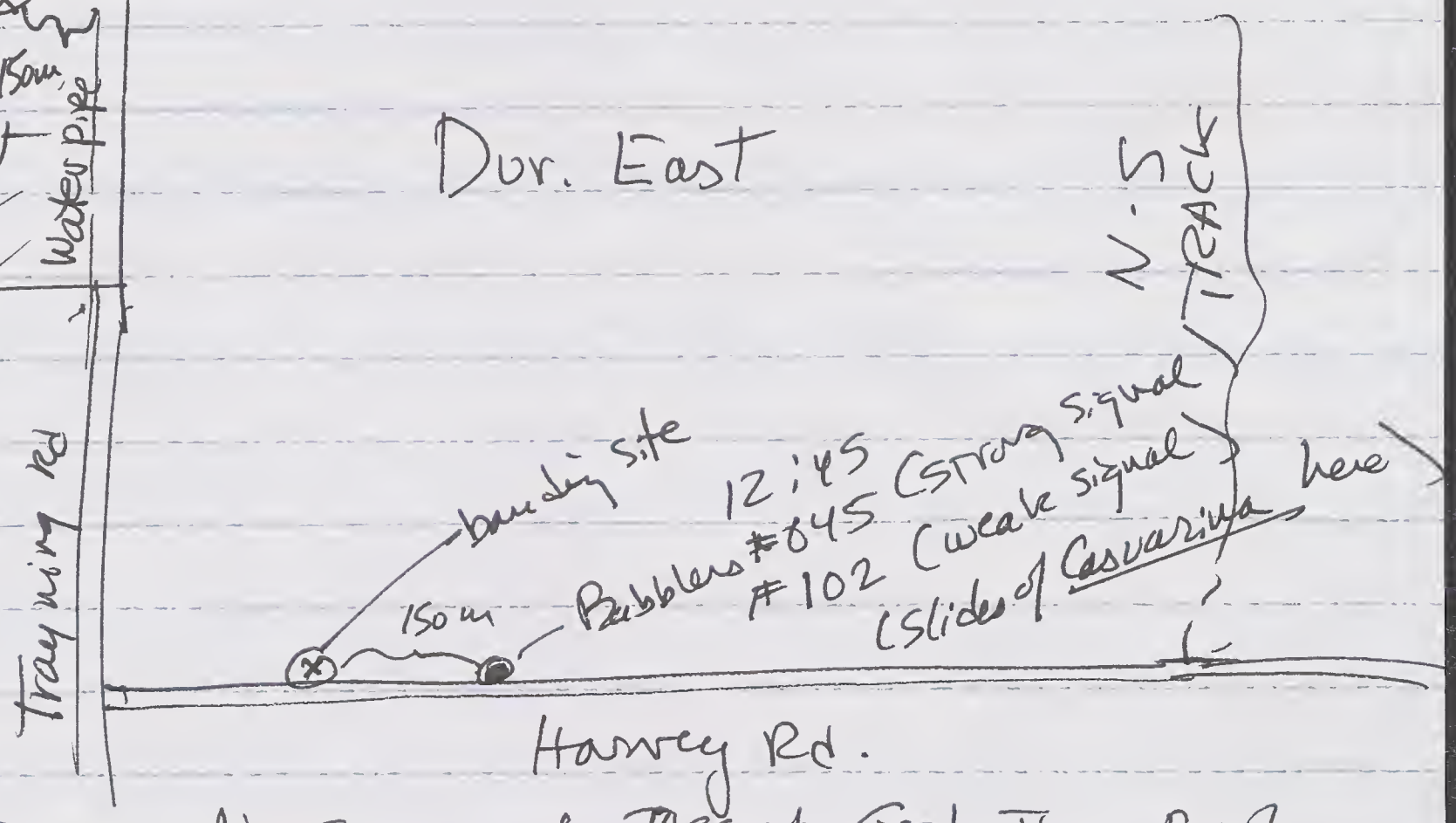
7 Sept




NE corner Duracoppin West - Golden Whistler #294
within 100m of banding site in White-walled/Melaleuca
two sign of Grey Shrike-Thrush trapped here yesterday




SW corner Duracoppin East




1300-1330. No sign of Togged Gosh. Thr RuWh, WETHE or WY Robin along N-S track where they were banded. UB & WY Robin feeding a fledged Broom, mottled young - on ground giving V. Soft Thin, high pitched Peeping call. & Fledgling fluttered off when I approached.

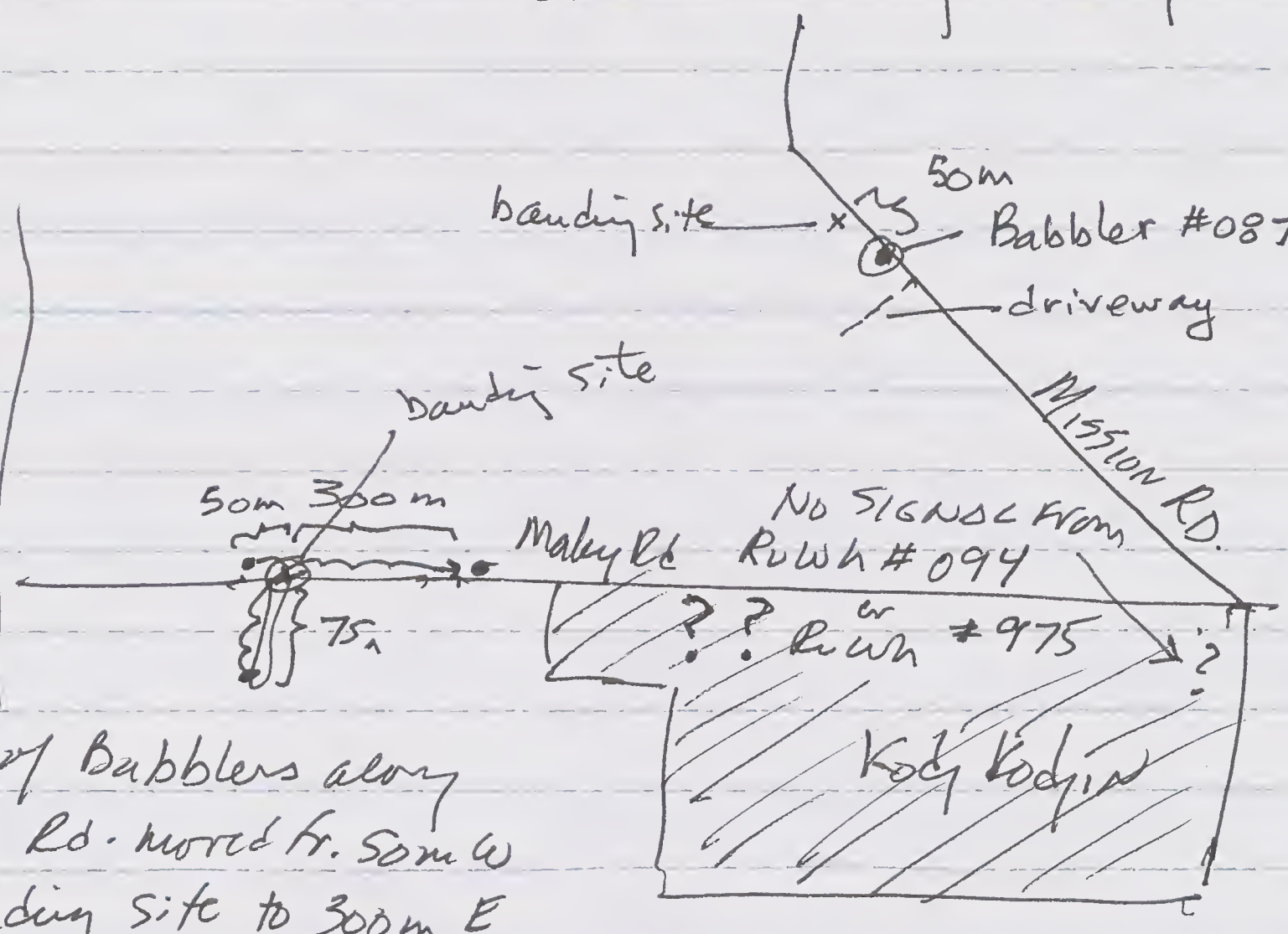
J. F. Lynch
1992

7 Sept - cont'd

'mystery' Honeycreeper brood is still in its nest - olive brown color, small size make Brown Honeycreeper the best possibility - nest in melaleuca ~ 0.75 off ground. Young had already hatched by 27 AUG (when I first saw them), so are at least 12 days old - still not ready to fly, by the looks of them. Brown, White-eared, and Singing HE all calling nrby.

Corridor #1: 0° 1mm RcWh Singing ~100m N. of dogleg turn - I put up a net and tried to lure him in with playback tape, but he stayed well back and shut up while I was playing tape. This is right at ~~GEO~~ DAS banding site #2

Babblers #087 located 50m S. of banding site



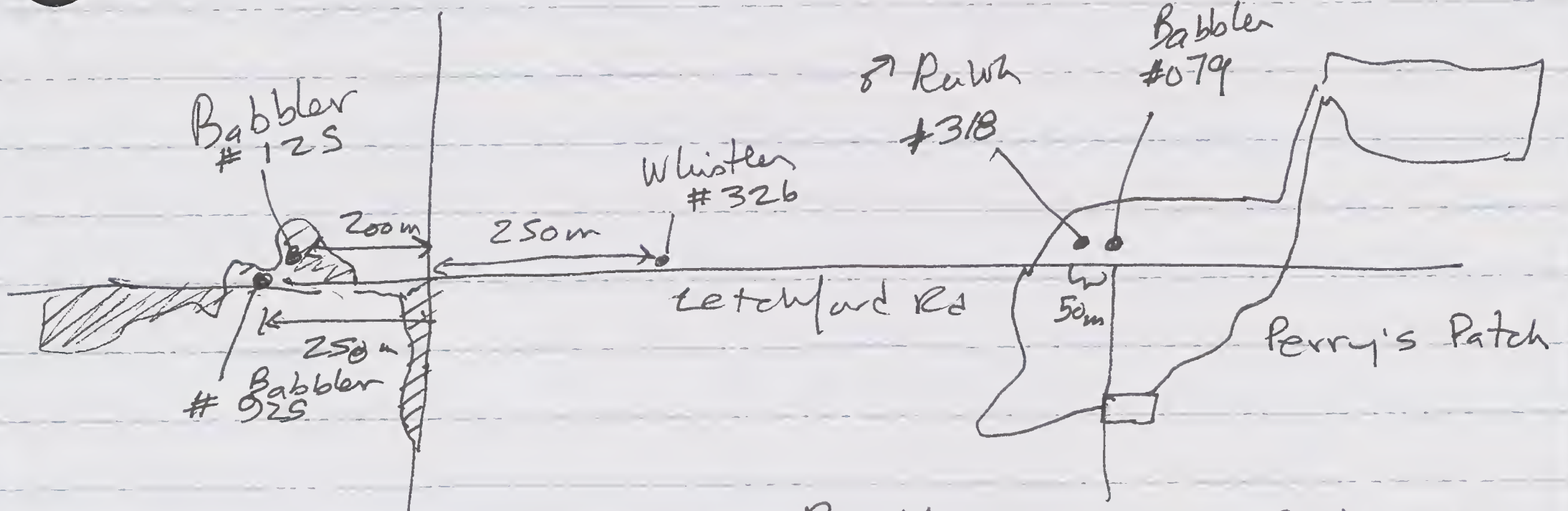

Group of Babblers along Maley Rd. moved fr. 50m W of banding site to 300m E and also went S. ~ 75m to the end of the spur of trees.

I got a clear look at #875 (Mr/mr-left), who still is wearing a transmitter, but no signal.

J. F. Lynch
1992

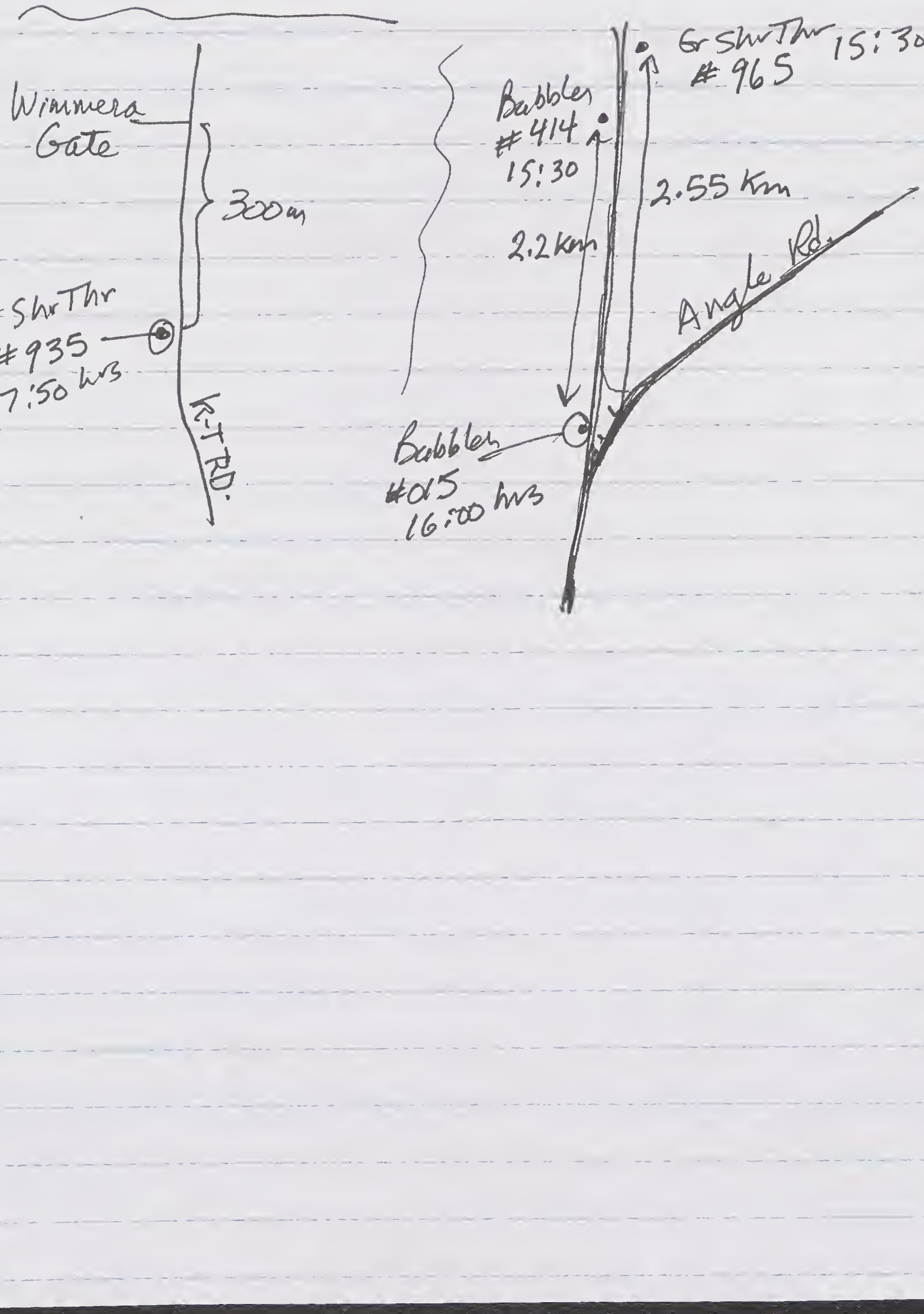
Rob Doupé is student helper

8 Sept DION's Sightings of radio-Tagged birds




NO SIGN of "DEAD"

Babbler #162 or Whistler #906



4 Sept - Cont'd

3 Babblers netted from a group of 6-7 at last a few m. S. of site on Doodlakine Rd where I netted 2 a couple of weeks ago. However, I suspect this is a different mob - The 2 retraps were first captured at EW #31, ~ 400 m S. of this site (and 450 m S. my original banding site). Two more birds in today's mob were short-billed juveniles (1 briefly had one in the net - noted its wrinkled yellow gape before it escaped). I hadn't seen the radio-tagged bird for several days, and in fact hadn't been able to find any Babblers at all until yesterday.

The facts that (1) no signal was picked up from today's mob, and (2) at least 5 of the 6-7 birds were definitely not from the original group, suggests that this latest group has infiltrated north along Doodlakine Rd. as the original group buggered off (perhaps further north towards Perry's banding spot on Broom Rd.

retrap Babbler Wh/Wh - RT; met/mv - left
Band # 050-90323
I attached ~~med~~ small-sized transmitter # 414 (2-11-3.0) to this bird. Orig. capt. at EW #31 (400 m S. of here) on 26 April 1990.

retrap. Babbler R/LG - RT; met/mv - left
Band # 050 - 90340 1st Capt. 26 April 1990 EW #31

New Babbler R/DBlue-L Met/mv-RT.

note on juve Babblers: They tend to lag behind group - hesitant about crossing openings, stay higher in dense vegetation - I only netted the juv ind. after a

J. F. Lynch
1992
7 Sept – cont'd

lengthy period of chasing it up and down the corridor. This behavior may explain why we haven't netted these little buggers before.

~

Echidna seen along the road verge (E. side) ~ 200 m N. of banding site – near where I saw one on the rd (same individual?) a few days ago.

13 Black-tailed Native Hens around a farm dam on Broun Rd, ~ 1 km E. Jct w. Doodlakine Rd.

~

8 Sept – Packing up day for me at Kellerberrin

0930 – photos of sand heath at top of "Weeds"

0945 photos of Wandoo Woodland along N. border of Dorakoppin East (Broun Rd)

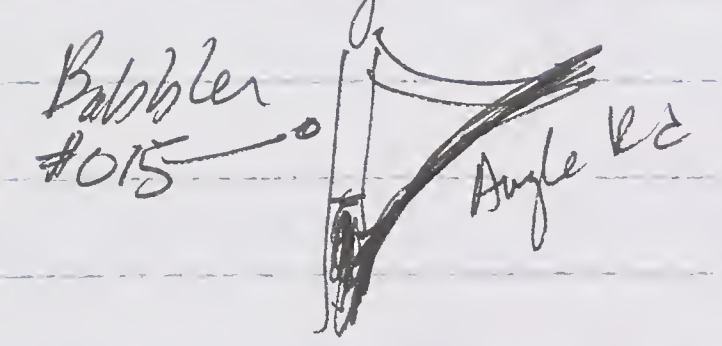
10:15 photo of corridor along Doodlakine Rd. looking South from my last banding site there.

10:30 Gr Shr. Thrush #065 located on E. side of rd ~ 250m S. of banding site. UB bird on nest ns. banding site. I couldn't see whether nest had eggs or young.

10:45 New Babbler found ~ 350m S. of banding
12.8 site (~ 75m N. EW #31) in dense bushes on W. side of rd., just N. of creek crossing rd.

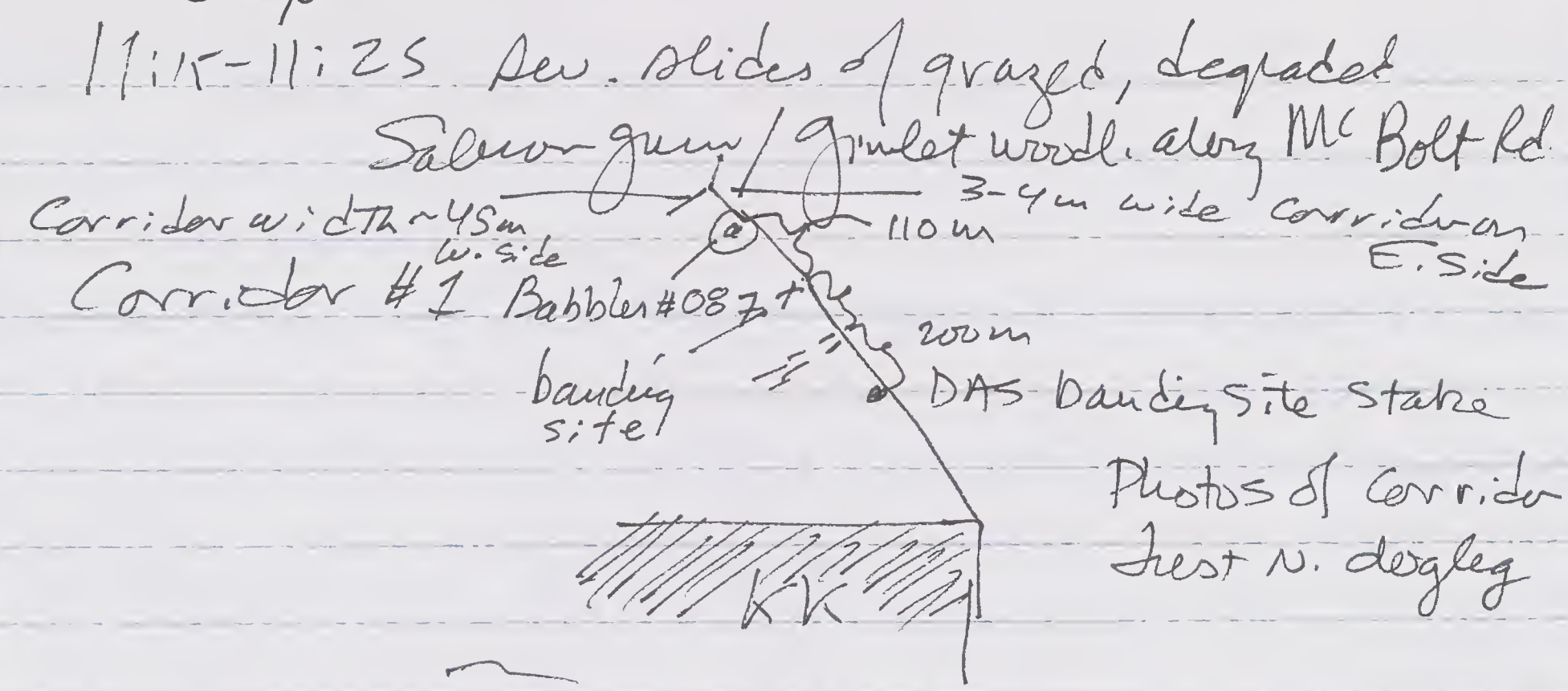
12.9 EW #31 stake

15.2 Angle Rd Jct. – Babbler # 015 still ticking (11/05)



J.F. Lynch
1992
8 Sept - cont'd

11:15-11:25 Rev. slides of grazed, degraded Salmon gum / gimlet woodl. along Mc Bolt Rd




SW Corner Durakoppin East – WY Robin #356
Seen w. transmitter, but no signal.

Dion, Graham Arnold, & Rob Dupé (local uni. student) showed up – Rob will be tracking my birds, using Dion's truck-mounted receiver.

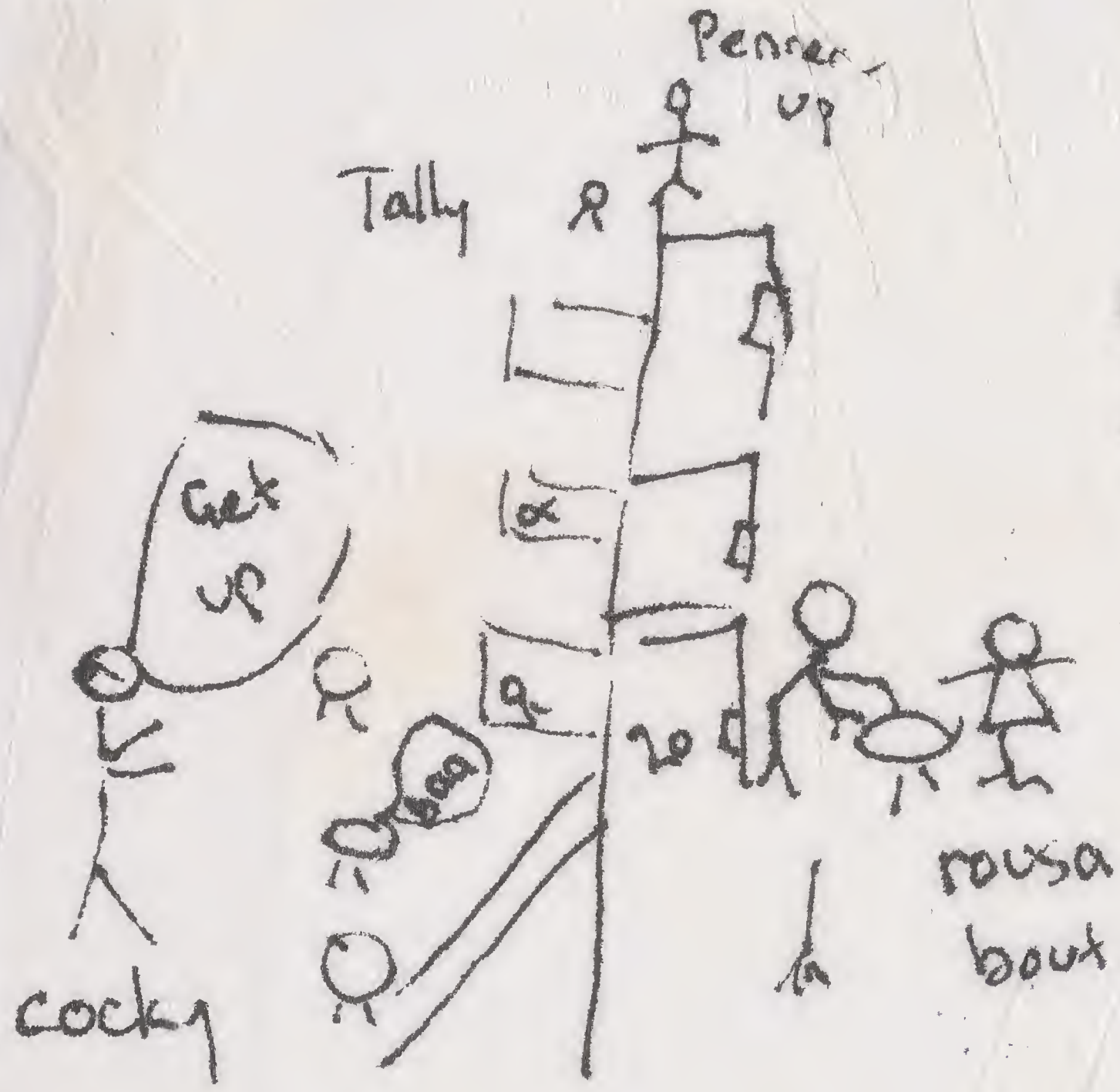
I cleaned up car, house, self; packed up & left the CSIRO house ~ 15:30 hrs. The end of another Wheatbelt Field Season.

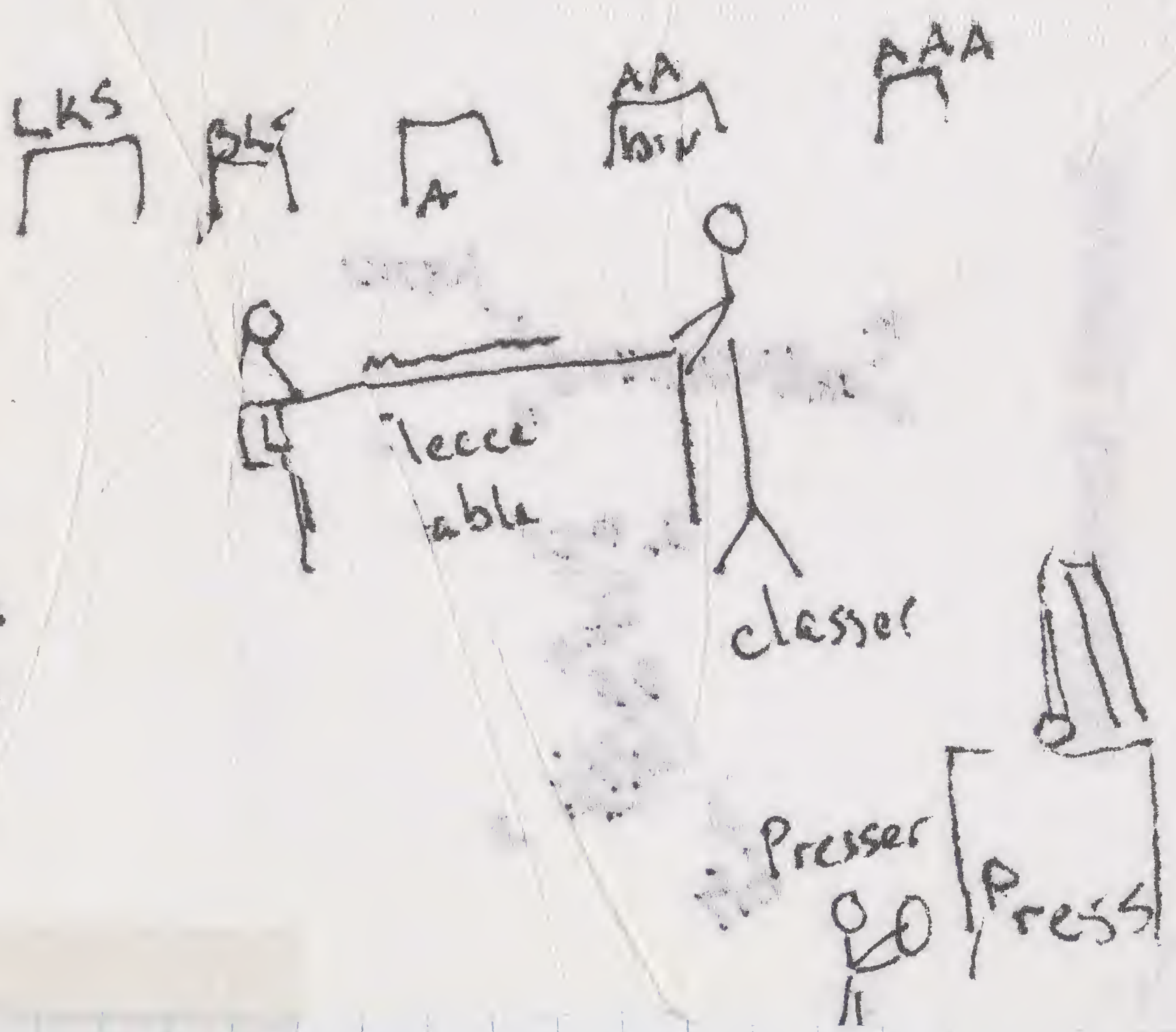
9-11 in Midland at CSIRO laboratory

12 Sept. Left Perth domestic terminal on 07:00 flight to Cairns via Alice Springs. Excellent Ansett flight, with lots of Aussie scenery. We flew E. over the Darling Range, just N. of Kellerberrin. At one point I looked out the window and identified Perry's Patch, the Letchford x Tragning Rd patch and other all-too-familiar landmarks I'd been exploring at ground level for weeks.

LAYOUT OF SHEEP-SHEARING SHED

As per explanation on Thursday



J.F. Lynch
1992

12 Sept.

From the air it is evident that extent of land clearing drops noticeably E. of Meredin — larger and larger remnant tracts of native vegetation, wider roads verges, more connectivity, etc.
Some big salt lakes just a few km NE of the CSIRO's Kellerberrin house.

The "center" (i.e., all but the coastal fringes) of Australia is red, dry, but far from uniform. Lots of open Savanna woodland, often with taller, denser trees along dry watercourses. Some huge saline lakes - mostly dry, as far as I could tell. Toward Alice Springs there are lots of sand dunes (E-W orientation) and hog-back rock outcrops. Weather clouded up near Ayres Rock, but I think I glimpsed the edges of the Olgas, just W. of there.

Alice Springs is pretty bleak-looking. Though there are some hogback ridges N. of the airport & town. From the air, you can see rows of native shrubs (grasses?) growing in parallel lines in apparently unfarmed, ungrazed country. A fellow passenger told me that there had been some early attempts to plow soil, plant pasture grasses. Whatever the reason this is a fairly weird outcome.

Arrived in Cairns at ~ 1330 local time. (2 hr. time diff from Perth). Rented new Corolla from Avis ($49/day w. 100 free km/day) and drove N. ~ 20 km to Yorkeys Knob, where I had a room reservation. Attractive rugged, green hills W. of the highway, w. a relatively narrow coastal plain that is mostly given over to sugar cane cultivation.
I checked in at Villa Marine - nice, but expensive ($80).

13 Sept. A 45 minute stroll around a block of intact forest just in from the beach at Yorkeys Knob produced some interesting birds.

J.F. Lynch
1992

13 Sept. (cont'd) Yorkey's Knob, Cairns area, Qld

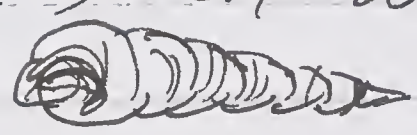
White-rumped Swiftlets abound overhead; C. Mynas ubiquitous and noisy throughout wooded neighborhoods just inl. from the beach. Mistletoebird had a cute hanging nest w. 2 lg. nestlings right at the back edge of the beach in a weed patch ~ 1 m above ground (a dangling "baby's booty" of a nest). Rainbow-bee-eaters were everywhere - every 10m or so. There would be one perched on utility lines, it seemed. I suspect these of wintering migrants from Temperate Australia.

I saw and heard several of the spectacular White-Torresian Pigeon - in tops of emergent rainforest trees in uncleared block of forest. Yellow-bellied Sunbird common in planted shrubs, flowering bushes. Several Little-Cuckoo-shrikes seen - noticeably smaller than Black-faced C-S, with a high pitched squawky call that is quite different. White-throated Honeyeaters common - v. actively combing leaf clusters + branchlets in tall flowery eucalypts. Other spp: Bar-shouldered Dove, Spangled Drongo, Straw-necked Ibis, Sacred Kingfisher.

I left Yorky's Knob ~ 0930 and drove back S. to the Cairns airport area, stopping to spend ~1/2 hr. walking on the very nice mangrove boardwalk just outside the terminal area. Few birds in evidence but I did get a good look at my first Black Butcherbird, as well as a Sacred Ibis. Several diff. mangrove types are zonally distributed furthest from the water are straight, smooth-barked, ~~white~~ birch mangroves with Rhizophora like leaves (but smaller) and buttressed roots. ~~Not like~~ These are fairly small trees (ht = 5-8m) and almost give the appearance of a stand of young birch trees.

J.F. Lynch
1992

13 Sept - cont'd

An intermediate zone has a taller, somewhat rougher-barked species of mangrove with Avicennia-like ~~pneu~~ pneumatophores. Finally there is a telephone-pole like stand of very tall, straight, unbranched mangroves of a third species — This one with Red Mangrove-like stilt roots. These are the tallest mangroves I've ever seen — they get to at least 25m. The mud substrate is totally riddled by crab burrows and craters — mudskippers seen — also a v. abundant quite large (ca 10 cm) spire-shaped snail which is streamside over the mud  . Osprey circling creek.

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I stopped for a half-hr. at the Cairns Esplanade, where (with the help of a visiting birder from New Zealand) I identified the following birds.

On grass lawns: Dom Pigeon, Austr. Magpie-Lark (sev.), Masked Plover (3), Spice Finch (sev. flocks of 20-30 birds each), Willie Wagtail (sev.), Peaceful Dove (sev.); House Sparrow (sev.)

On Mud-flats, mostly looking: Little Egret (1), Intermediate Egret (4-5), Royal Spoonbill (1), Sacred Ibis (~20), Terek Sandpiper (3-4), Red-necked Stint (100+), Great Knot (20-30), Whimbrel (~25), E. Curlew (3-4), ~~Curlew~~ Curlew Sandpiper (~6), Greenshank (3), Bar-tailed Godwit (~10), Ruddy Turnstone (~6), Black-winged Stilt (1), Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (~100), Gull-billed Tern(s), Caspian Tern (~10), Silver Gull (~100), Aust. Pelican (~50)

J.F. Heppell
1992

13 Sept. (cont'd)

I left Cairns ~ 10:30 and drove S. on hwy 1 past Innisfail to the little crossroads of El Arish, where I turned E. toward Mission Beach. Most of the drive to this point had been sugar cane country, with the occasional patch of bananas. Nice jagged hills in the background, including Queensland's tallest peak Bartle Frére (~1600m). Between El Arish and Mission Beach, however, the road winds through ~15km of rugged hills covered with coastal rainforest. The best section of this is encompassed by Tam O' Shanter State Park, which is peppered with "Cassowary Crossing" signs. Although I had'nt planned to stop (I was dressed in shorts and flip-flops and T-shirt), I parked at the first sign indicating a rainforest trail and took a sometimes muddy, occasionally steep (not good flip-flop terrain) loop trail. And, as luck would have it, I surprised an adult male (?) Cassowary about half way along the track. The startled bird crashed loudly into the forest, running very fast; then he stopped, ~25m into not-too-dense woods, and calmed down. Made some deep, rumbling noises, preened a bit, then began feeding — picking his way daintily through the woods, pecking occasionally at the ground in chicken-like fashion. I watched the bird for ~10 minutes before it finally disappeared into the forest.

Other birds were hard to see, though there was a moderate amount of vocalizing, considering the late hour (noon - 13:30). Spectacled Monarch and Spotted Catbird definitely I.D.'d. Shrike-Thrush sp. vocalizing (see notes for 15 Sept).

note: droppings of Cassowary are large, blackish, amorphous "cow-pie" like scats, with lots of large whitish

J. F. Leyden
1992
13 Sept - Cont'd
Deeds about the size and appearance of husked Chestnuts.

I drove on into Mission Beach (only about 5 km past the State Park, and checked in at the Mission Beach Village, a very nice, new-looking motel a block in from the extensive beaches. Large room w. ceiling fan, refrig., etc. cost $55/night (Austr.)

14 Sept - I spent the whole day on a trip to the Barrier Reef. Boat with ~ 20 fellow passengers and a crew of 3 left Dunk Point marina (just N. Mission Beach) at 8:30AM for the 2½ hr cruise to the reef (A high-powered Catamaran cruise boat does the trip in under an hour, but would have cost twice as much - $98 vs. $49). I didn't realize we had to go quite so far offshore to get into good coral. Evidently, Dunk is, & the other nearby "Family Islands" once had some nice coral, but agricultural runoff & sedimentation has ruined those reefs.

The destination was a tiny sand bore known as "Dog Bay", I believe. Less than an acre in size, pure sand, without even a blade of grass. The tiny is, however, surrounded by a square mile or so of patch reefs. I took 2 snorkeling excursions, and I was impressed by the diversity of fish and the spectacularly colorful corals and other invert's. Lots of indigo-blue Starfish and Staghorn corals, as well as blue sponges. I didn't list the fish at the time, but I saw many species of angelfish and Butterfly fish, as well as Percula Clowns, Three Clowns, Clown

J.F. Lynch
1992

14 Sept - Cont'd

Wrasse, Forface, Heniochus, several kinds of Triggerfish (including Humu-humu), many Parrotfish, Pacific Tangs, Orange Boxfish, various gobies, Coral trout, a couple of large "cod" (=grouper) spp, etc. Cone shells were ~~very~~ everywhere, as were live cones in the shallows around the Sand Cay. Almost all seemed to belong to one species - a medium-sized, thick-shelled white species with faint brown markings. I collected a few shells, but they weren't primo specimens. On the way out, we trolled 2 fishing lures with large plugs as lures - caught a mid mackerel tuna that weighed ~6-7 kilos. I scarfed up a few slices of fresh sashimi.

No crown-of-thorns starfish, but the crew told us that they occur in occasional plague proportions (every one is expecting a surge in their numbers in the next couple of years). The crew of this boat killed over 4,000 crown-of-thorns starfish in this one bit of reef during the last outbreak in the mid-80s.

Virtually no birds except a few Silver Gulls and Gull-billed Terns were seen on this trip. A single Brown Booby circled the Cay while we were there.

We returned to the Clump Point dock at 1730.

15 Sept. Rainforest walking track at Tam O' Shanter State Forest - I got up at 0600 and was on the trail by 0640. This is ~1 km further east than the loop trail where I saw the Cassowary a couple of days ago. This trail heads South from the El Arish Rd, and eventually intersects the highway to Tully (6 km walk) and

J. F. Lynch
1992
15 Sept - Cont'd
I am O' Shanter State Park - cont'd
Licualla State Forest (4 Km). Trail is fairly level, and tends to follow a ridge line, with a couple of bridges crossing side canyons in the 2-3 km stretch I walked. Birds were quite active and vocal from the time of my arrival til about 09:00, after which activity markedly dropped. I had trouble getting good looks at many birds that I heard, but by the time I knocked off at 9:30 I had I.D.'d most of the common calling species, I think.

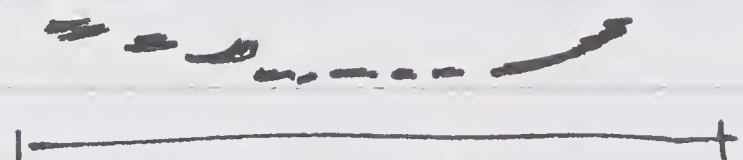
Eastern Whipbird, Chowchilla, and Spotted Catbird all were abundant. Other common spp. were ~~Brown~~ Rufous Shrike-Thrush, Grey Whistler, Leaden Honeyeater, Dusky Honeyeater, Black-billed Scrubwren, Wompoo Pigeon. Species seen only once or twice included Brown Fantail, Superb Fruit-Dove, Emerald Dove, Brush-Turkey, Victoria's ~~Kingfisher~~ Kingfisher, Barred Cuckoo-Shrike, and Koel. Cassowary droppings common along the trail, but I didn't see any birds today.

Species notes:

Grey Whistler - fairly common, once I pinned down its call, but very difficult to get a good look at. I only saw one bird really well - looked like a female Golden Whistler, but browner, with a distinct white "eyelid" visible at some distance. Call is loud and fairly harsh, with a hesitant, disjointed quality. Basically, a series of distinct introductory notes (the 3rd of these generally slurred), followed by a typical whistler "weeet"

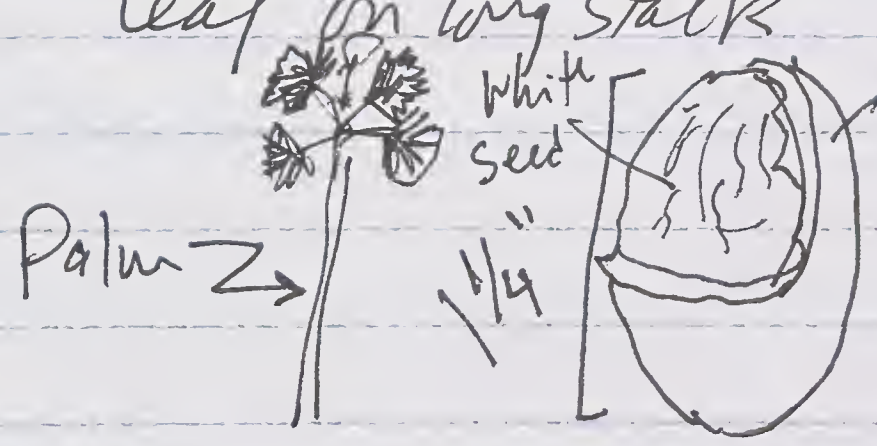
J.F. Lynch
1992

15 Sept - cont'd
Entire Call takes ~ 4-5 seconds, and can be written
Eet-Eet-weeT- chewuck-chewuck-weeeT




Refers
The ~~Brown~~ Shrike Thrush is quite small (in same size as White-breasted Whistler) and whistler-like in behavior. Forages arboreally, rather than in litter as grshr Thrush often does. Often seen in 2's (prs) and much easier to get a good look at than was the grey Whistler. Seen poking through tangles of leaves, exploring leafy boughs, etc. Lots of dual vocalizations - either prs. or territorial conflicts, it's hard to say. Call is shorter, harsher, less melodic than typical grShr Thr vocalizations - sometimes resembles the high-intensity "Squawk" and burbling vocalizations of grShr Thrush. Color is warm rufous (like a treecreeper).

Cassowaries feeding extensively on an orange-colored fruit with a chestnut-sized pit/seed. Pulp is only ~ 1/8" thick and rather tough, but nice mellow fruity smell to it. I think this is the fruit of a locally abundant rainforest palm that grows to ~ 15m tall. Smooth-barked species with rounded leaf on long stalk

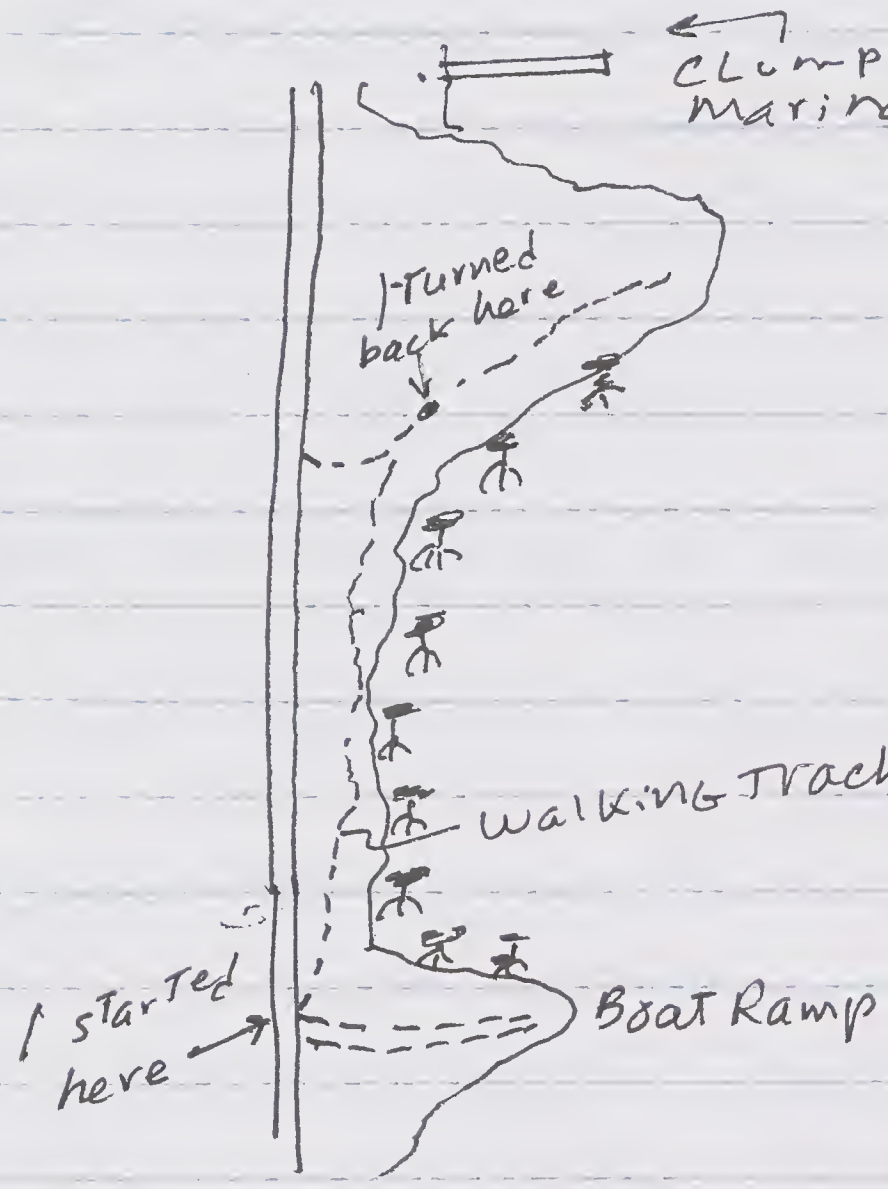



Every pile of Cassowary droppings seen here and on the other trail on 13 Sept had these seeds in it.

J.F. Lynch
1992

16 Sept Mission Beach area

Took it pretty easy today - reading, swimming, photographing the Mission Beach scene, etc. I did take a couple of interesting walks. The first was along the walking track which goes along the shore between Mission Beach and Clump Point Marina (ultimately, the track goes on to Clump Point peninsula, but I didn't go that far).



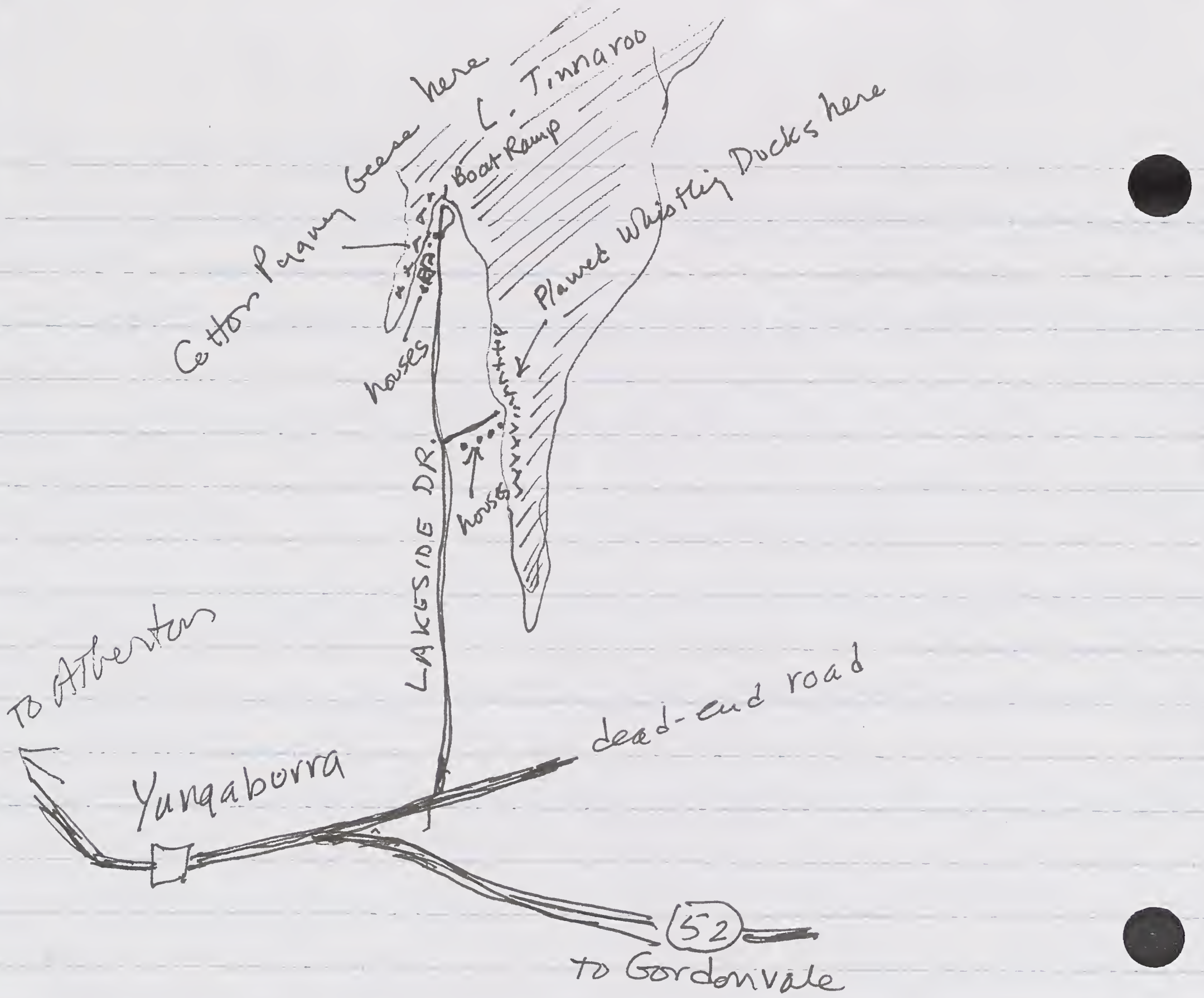

I had hoped to get a look at some mangrove birds, and while the trail does skirt a fringe of mangroves, there were none of the mangrove specialty birds in evidence. Far more interesting, however, were the Orange-footed Scrub-fowl, which abound along the section of trail I walked. The area is basically a rather steep, but very narrow, slope between the road and the shoreline - quite rocky, and well-forested with sand-boulder shoreline covered with figs, mangroves, & other trees. I saw a minimum of 8 scrub-fowl along a stretch of perhaps 1 km, and heard several others scampering through the dry leaf-litter. They are big, heavy-bodied birds that remind me of guinea fowl in size & body proportions. They are shyer than Brush Turkeys, and keep well away from the observer; however, because much of the area, especially near the shore, had little in the way of shrubs, I got excellent views

J.F. Lynch
1992
16 Sept - cont'd.

of the Scrub-fowl. They are quite strong fliers, and look much bigger when they take flight. I found one of their mounds right on the track - a huge pile of leaf litter & soil, perhaps 5-6m in diameter and 1.5 m high - Three or four deep holes were scooped out at scattered points - maybe the Scrub fowl helping young to hatch, or maybe predators digging in? (Tracks of large goannas were common in the beach sand).

Not much additional bird life to report here - The ubiquitous green Figbirds were present in small numbers in the forest, and flocks of Rainbow Lorikeets were working the large red blooms of a tree growing along the roadside where the trail begins.

Late in the afternoon I spent an hour or so in the Licuala State Forest Park, along the road between Mission Beach and Tully. It turns out that Licuala is the genus of the large fan-palm that abounds in the mid-story of the local forest (see my notes for 15 Sept). According to signs in the park, there are ~20 spp in the genus found in Asia, but only this one (the tallest) in Australia. There was a 1 km boardwalk trail through a dense stand of these palms, and I also walked for ~ 1 km along the main dirt track that enters the park from the highway. Birds were moderately common, but I saw nothing I hadn't already noted at Tam O'Shanter State Forest: Spotted Catbird, Thick-billed Scrub-Wren, green Figbird, Brown Fantail, Little Shrike-Thrush. Lots of Cassowary droppings, but most looked old. All had the same large seed sp. I'd noted earlier (plus smaller seeds the size of cherry pits - also present in droppings at Tam o' Shanter).


Cotton Pygmy Geese here
L. Tinnaroo
Boat Ramp
Planet Whistling Ducks here
houses
houses
LAKESIDE DR.
TO Atherton
Yungaburra
dead-end road
52
to Gordonvale

J. F. Lynch
1992

17 Sept. En Route Mission Beach - Cairns
Up at 0600, and on the road by 07:30. [drove to El Arish, N. to Innisfail, then cut west on Palmerston "highway" (2-lane windy road) toward the Atherton Tableland. I stopped for a few minutes in 0900-0920 Palmerston National Park, which is a long, narrow strip of rich rainforest on the slope just below (E. of) the Tableland. Again, the birds closely resembled what I'd seen in Tam O' Shanter (Little Shrike-Thrush, Fig birds, Spotted Catbird, Thick-billed Scrub-Wren, Spectacled Monarch, Leaden Fly, etc.), but ~~I~~ did note White-headed Pigeon perched in emergent trees and flying by; also a lone Sulfur-crested Cockatoo flew overhead. Silvereyes common in shrubby roadside vegetation; Golden Whistler heard. Pied-Currawong in broken forest just W. of park, and as I broke out onto the largely deforested tableland itself, I noted Austr. Magpie (the first ones I've seen in N. Queensland), Magpie-lark, Pied Butcherbird, etc. Square-tailed Kites common around road - going after bits of carrion, and I saw a couple of them D.O.R.

About the only extensive areas of forest I saw once I got onto the tablelands were on emergent hills and ridges.

I made a brief stop at Lake Tinaroo, east of Atherton. This is a big reservoir in the midst of rolling pasture country. The water level was down fairly low, so muddy banks were exposed. I stopped at one place where a small road dead-ends at the southernmost arm of the lake - hundreds of Plumed Whistling Ducks were massed in several large groups along the bare shoreline, a few feet from the water. Hardhead swimming out in the lake.

J. F. Leyrch
1992

17 Sept Mission Beach → Cairns - cont'd

I drove on northward along the west side of the lake to a developed park site (picnic set-ups, boat ramp, a cluster of houses). Here I found a couple dozen beautiful little Cotton Pygmy Geese. They are really small - notably smaller than Hardhead. Lots of other water birds, especially in the sheltered inlets and arms of the lake. I noted the following totals:
~ 200 ÷ 300 Plumed Whistling Duck,
~ 25 Cotton Pygmy goose, ~ 20 Hardhead,
~ 35-40 Black Duck, ~ 20 White Ibis,
~ 20 Grey Teal, ~ 40 Austr. Coot, 2 Moorhen, ~ 20 Purple Swamp-hen,
2 Little Pied Cormorant, 1 L. Black Cormorant, 1 Intermediate Egret, 6 Austr. Pelican. Reed Warblers singing in tall marsh grass at lakeside, and I heard my first Rufous Whistler in Queensland.

Unfortunately, time ran out on me and I didn't have time to explore the lake as thoroughly as I'd have liked. I also had to drive right past the turnoff to L. Barrine, a crater lake which has a reputation as an excellent birding spot. Made a very slow, winding descent from the Tablelands via hwy 52 to Gordonvale, again passing through large forested sections on the slopes. Here, however, the predominant vegetation was rather open Eucalypt forest, rather than rainforest - perhaps reflecting edaphic conditions (slope here is very rocky - ledges of granite or sandstone). Back in Cairns by noon, and then to the airport & to Brisbane & Sydney.

J. F. Lynch
1992

17 Sept - cont'd. Arrived Sydney at 1730. Checked in at "Australian Sunrise Lodge", a modest little hotel on King St. in Newtown.

18 Sept. I was awakened by Red-whiskered Bulbuls singing on my tiny balcony. Sorry reminds me of a louder, slower White-eyed Vireo call (or maybe a Rufous-browed Peppershrike).

*"Why resort to anywhere else?"*

Maureen & Richie Mackay

7 Porter Promenade
Mission Beach, Qld. 4854
Phone (070) 68 7212

# List of Birds Seen by a Previous Visitor to Villa Marina

Yorkey's Knob 2-6 Aug 1992

(Within a few blocks of hotel)

Straw-necked Ibis
Austr. Pelican
Black Kite
Whistling Kite
Brahminy Kite
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove
Peaceful Dove
Spotted Turtledove
Bar-shouldered Dove
Rainbow Lorikeet
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet
Sulfur-crested Cockatoo
Silver Gull
Laughing Kookaburra
Forest Kingfisher
Sacred Kingfisher
Masked Lapwing
Rainbow Bee-eater
Welcome Swallow
Varied Triller
Willy Wagtail
Leaden Flycatcher
Restless Flycatcher
White-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike
Helmeted Friarbird
Silver-crowned Friarbird
White-throated HE
Yellow HE
Dusky HE
Yellow-bellied Sunbird
Mistletoe-Bird
White-breasted Woodswallow
Metallic Starling
Spangled Drongo
Magpie-Lark
Spice Finch
Comm. Myna
Figbird

# Notes on birding in N. Queensland

(Local expert is John Crowhurst)

Motels in Cairns – Laguna (~$50/night)

Birds on Cairns Esplanade: Austr. Pelican, Little Egret, Intermediate Egret, Great Egret, Striated Heron, Sustr. Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Osprey, BK-breasted Kite, Whistling Kite, Brahminy Kite, Wh-bell. Sea Eagle, Buff-banded Rail, Bar-T. Godwit, Whimbrel, Far-eastern Curlew, Marsh SP, C. Greenshank, Terek SP, Common SP, Gray-T. Tattler, Ruddy Turnstone, Great Knot, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed SP, Curlew SP, Broad-billed SP, Eur. Oyster-catcher, Asian Golden Plover, Gray Plover, Red-capped Plover, Mongolian Plover, Greater SP, Masked Lapwing, Silver Gull, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Lesser Crested-Tern, Common Tern, Little Tern, Spotted Dove, Rainbow Lorikeet, Yellow HE, Wh-br. Woodswallow, Wh-b. Cuckoo-Shrike, Common Myna, Welcome Swallow, House Sparrow, Scaly-breasted Martin.

Flecker

Cairns – Bot. garden: L. Red Cormorant, Pac. & Bk Duck, Wh-F. Heron, Little Egret, Intermediate Egret, Austr. Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis, Brahm. Kite, Comb-cr. Jacana, Marsh SP, Grey-tailed Tattler, Sharp-tailed SP, Masked Lapwing, Peaceful Dove, Bar-shouldered Dove, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Rainbow Lorikeet, Fan-Tailed Cuckoo, Papuan Frogmouth, Austr. Swiftlet, Forest Kingfisher, Brown-backed HE, Black Butcherbird, Varied Triller, Comm. Myna

Mangrove access

Thompson Rd. at Edmonton - 15 km S. Cairns
(Sun Scene Motel - $35)
Mangrove area - Little Kingfisher, Mangrove Robin, Brahminy Kite, Scaly-br. Lorikeet, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Austr. Koel.

Lake Barrine National Park - 20 km E. Atherton
(water-filled volcanic crater)
Austr. Grebe, Gr. Cormorant, Wandering Whistling Duck, Pacific Black Duck, White-eyed Duck, Austr. Kite, Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Austr. Brush-Turkey, Bronzewing, Dusky Moorhen, Eur. Coot, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Emerald Dove, Peaceful Dove, Topknot Pigeon, Torresian Imperial Pigeon, Austr. King Parrot, Sulfur-cr. Cockatoo, Rainbow Lorikeet, Scaly-br. Lorikeet, Austr. Swiftlet, Azure KF, Forest KF, Dollarbird, Spotted Catbird, Tooth-billed Catbird., Red-backed Fairy Wren, Atherton Scrubwren, Brown Gerygone, Graceful HE, Yell.-spotted HE, Yell-faced HE, Mackay HE, Pale-yellow Robin, Bower's Shrike-Thrush, Chowchilla, Willie Wagtail, Rufous Fantail, Bk-faced Monarch, Spectacled Monarch, Pied Currawong, Green Figbird, Ground Cuckoo-Shrike, Comm. Cicadabird, Silvereye, Crimson Finch, Mistletoebird, Olive-backed Sunbird.

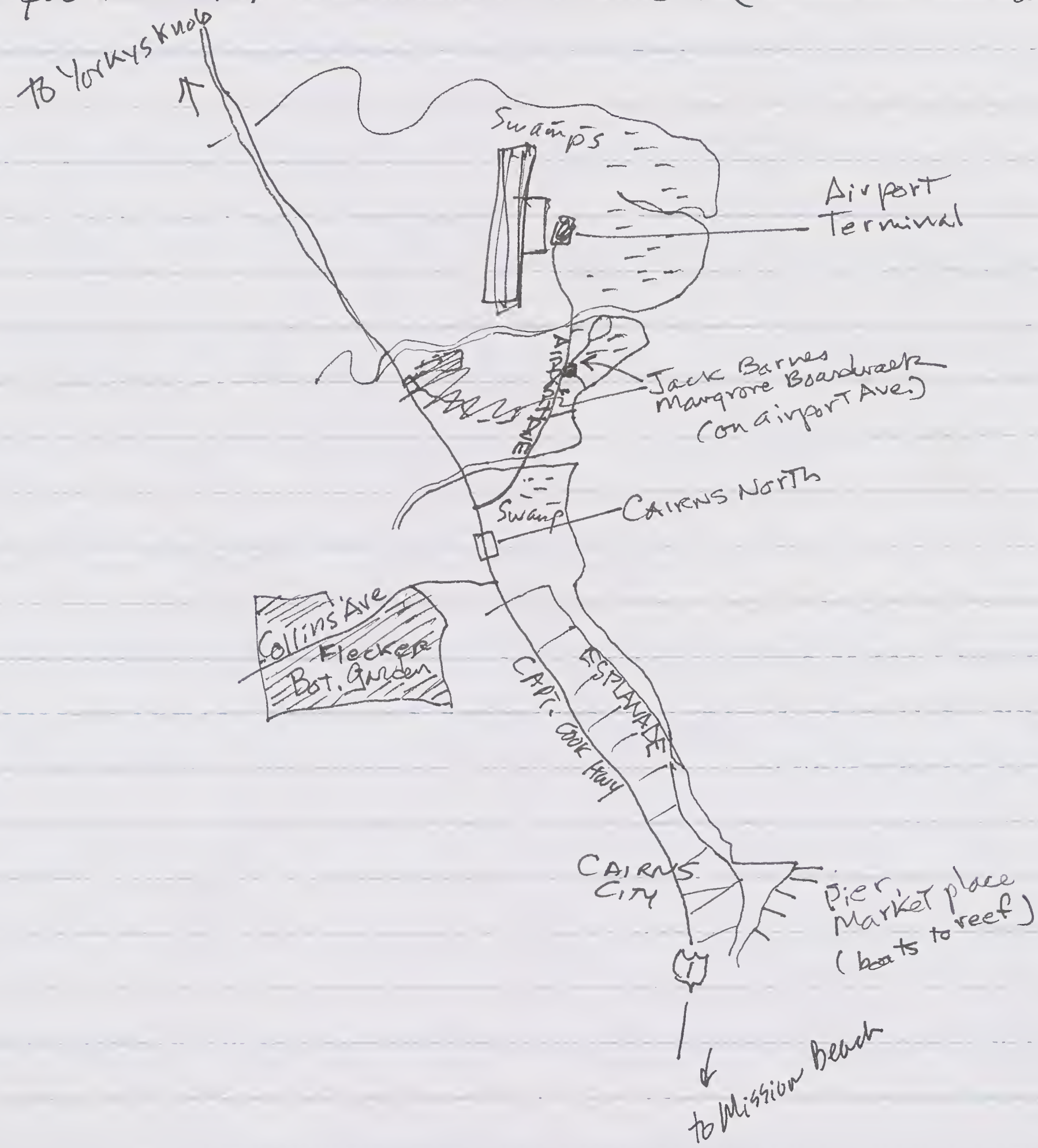
Other good spots: Mary Creek Rd (N. of Mt. Molloy on rd to Mt. Carbine)

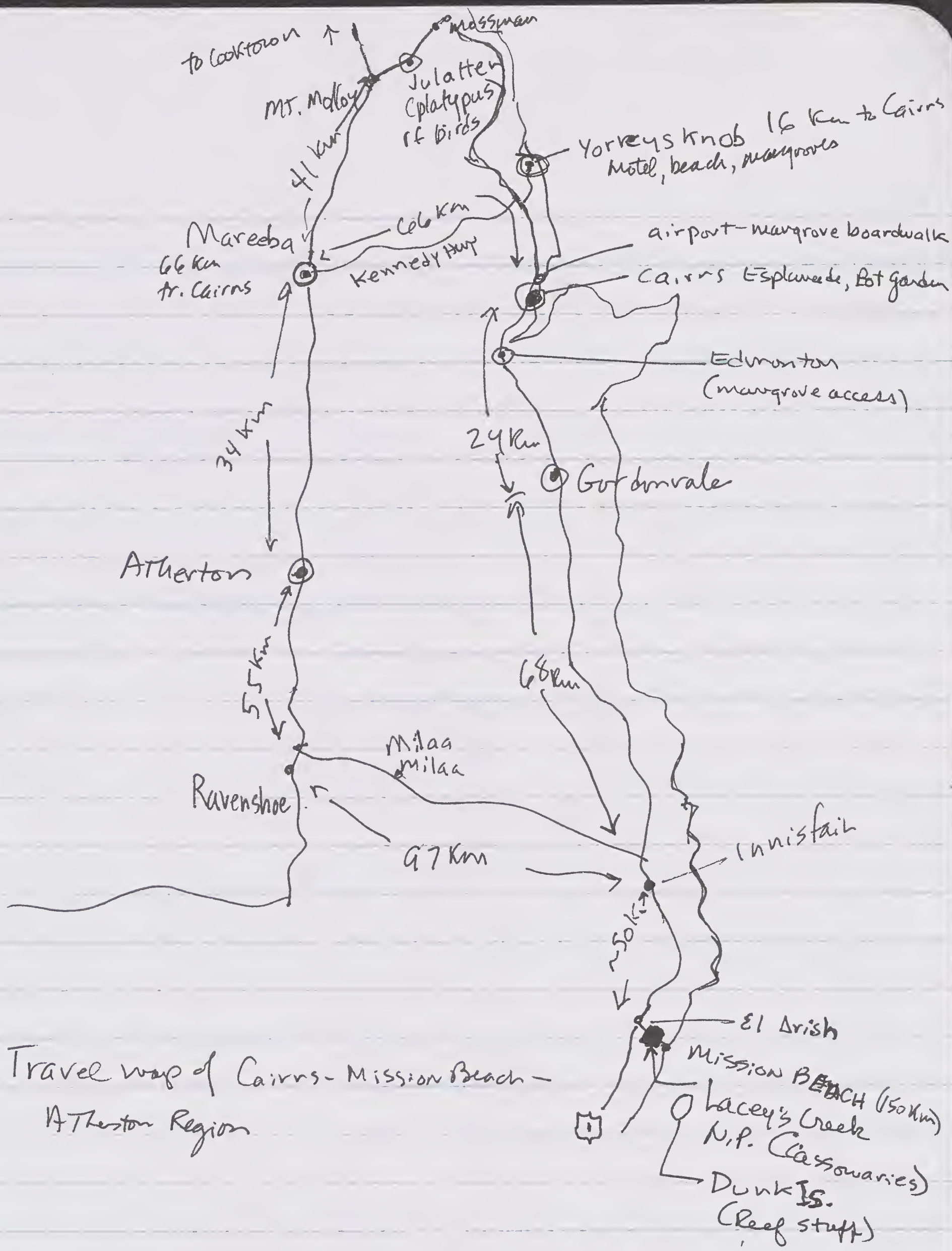
Julatten (Between Mt. Molloy and Mossman)
(Stop at Kingfisher Park in Julatten)
Caravan Park + Campground here
Good place to see Platypus - Mgrs. are birders.
Good rainforest birds

Great Barrier Reef Trip:
Great Adventures - Cairns - ~~$~~80 for a day trip, incl. food. Green Is. + Michaelmas Cay (good for sea birds)

Mission Beach - South of Cairns - The place for Cassowary. Lowland rainforest
(No record of wleisters)

Note: Mission Beach is quite far South - past Innisfail and EZ Arish (~150km S. Cairns)






Travel map of Cairns - Mission Beach -
Atherton Region

J.F. Lynch
1992

# Bird list for Australia Aug-Sept 1992

1. Australiasian little Grebe – Northam, WA
2. Australian Pelican – "
3. Little Pied Cormorant "
4. White-necked Heron – Kellerberrin area, WA
5. White-faced Heron – " " "
6. Mountain Ducks " "
7. Black Ducks – Kellerberrin, Northam, Midland, WA
8. Grey Teal – Kellerberrin Area
9. Wood Ducks – " ", Midland, WA
10. Black-shouldered Kite – " WA
11. Brown Goshawk – " "
12. Wedge-tailed Eagle – " "
13. Little Eagle – " "
14. Spotted Harrier " "
15. Brown Falcon " "
16. Nankeen Kestrel " "
17. Painted Button Quail " "
18. Black-tailed Native Hen " "
19. Coot Northam, WA
20. Banded Plover – Kellerberrin, WA
21. Silver Gull – Perth, Northam, WA
22. Domestic Pigeon – Kellerberrin, WA
23 Laughing Turtledove – " "
24. Common Bronzewing – " "
25. Crested Pigeon " "
26. Carnaby's Cockatoo Midland, WA
27. Galah " , Kellerberrin, etc., WA
28. Long-billed Corella – Kellerberrin, WA
29. Red-capped Parrot – Manjimup WA, Midland, WA
30. Port Lincoln Parrot – Midland, Kellerberrin, etc., WA
31. Mulga Parrot – Kellerberrin, WA
32. Elegant Parrot " "
33. Pallid Cuckoo – Midland, Kellerberrin, WA

34. Fantailed Cuckoo — Midland, WA
35. Horsefield's Bronze-Cuckoo — Kellerberrin, WA
36. Shining Bronze-Cuckoo — " "
37. Boobook Owl - " "
38. Tawny Frogmouth " "
39. Laughing Kookaburra - Midland, Manjimup, WA
40. White-backed Swallow - Kellerberrin, WA
41. Welcome Swallow - Midland, Kellerberrin, Manjimup, WA
42. Tree Martin - " " " "
43. Richard's Pipit - Kellerberrin, WA
44. Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike - "
45. Red-capped Robin — "
46. W. Yellow Robin — "
47. Jacky Winter — "
48. Golden Whistler " , Manjimup, WA
49. Rufous Whistler - Midland, Kellerberrin, WA
50. Grey Shrike-Thrush - "
51. Crested Bellbird — "
52. Grey Fantail — — Kellerberrin, WA
53. Willie Wagtail — " "
54. White-browed Babbler "
55. Weebill "
56. Western Warbler — " , Midland, WA
57. Broad-billed Thornbill - Kellerberrin, WA
58. Brown Thornbill - Manjimup, WA
59 Yellow-rumped Thornbill - Kellerberrin, WA
60 Chestnut-rumped Thornbill - "
61. Varied Sittella " "
62. Red Wattlebird - Midland, Kellerberrin, WA
63. Spiny-cheeked HE - Kellerberrin, WA
64. Yellow-throated Miner - "
65. Singing HE - "
66. White-eared HE "
67. New Holland HE "

68. Brown-headed HE — Kellerberrin, WA
69. Brown HE — " , Northam, WA
70. Striated Pardalote — Kellerberrin, WA
71. Silvereye — Manjimup, WA
72. Zebra Finch — Kellerberrin, WA
73. Australian Magpie-lark — "
74. Black-faced Woodswallow — "
75. Grey Butcherbird — "
76. Pied Butcherbird — "
77. Australian Magpie — "
78. Australian Raven — "
79. Y-b. Spoonbill — Manjimup, WA
80. White-breasted Robin — " "
81. Hardhead - York, WA
82. Mute Swan - " "
83. Common Myna - Cairns, Qld
84 ~~Brown~~ Kite — " "
85 Yellow-bellied Sunbird — Yorkey's Knob, Qld
(L) 86. Wh-Throated Honeyeater — "
87. White-rumped Swiftlet — "
88 Spangled Drongo — "
(L) 89 Torresian Pigeon — "
90. Bar-shouldered Dove — "
91 Mistletoe-Bird — "
92 Sacred Kingfisher — "
93 Straw-necked Ibis — "
94 Sacred Ibis — "
95. Osprey — Cairns
(L) 96. Black Butcherbird — "
(L) 97. Little Cuckoo-Shrike = White-breasted — Yorkeys Knob
98. House Sparrow — Cairns
99. Little Egret — "
100 Intermediate Egret — "
101. Eastern Curlew — "

J. F. Lynch
1992

# Australian Birds - cont'd

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 102. | Sharp-tailed Sandpiper | Cairns, Qld |
| (L) 103. | Terek Sandpiper | " |
| 104. | Great Knot | " |
| 105. | Ruddy Turnstone | " |
| 106. | Curlew Sandpiper | " |
| 107. | Red-necked Stint | " |
| (L) 108 | Spice Finch | " |
| 109. | Gull-billed Tern | " |
| 110. | Caspian Tern | " |
| 111. | Masked Lapwing | " |
| 112. | Royal Spoonbill | " |
| 113. | Whimbrel | " |
| 114. | Bar-tailed Godwit | " |
| 115. | Black winged Stilt | " |
| (L) 116. | Yellow Honeyeater | " |
| (L) 117. | Spotted Catbird | Tam O Shanter St. Park, Qld |
| (L) 118. | Southern Cassowary | " " |
| (L) 119. | Spectacled Monarch | " " |
| (L) 120. | Green Figbird | Mission Beach, Qld |
| (L) 121. | Emerald Dove | " " |
| 122 C. | Greenshank | Cairns, Qld |
| 123. | Beach Thicknee | - Mission Beach |
| 124. | Mangrove Kingfisher | " " |
| (L) 125. | White-breasted Woodswallow | " " |
| (L) 126. | Helmeted Friarbird | " " |
| 127. | Brown Booby | Island (E. of Mission Beach) |
| 128. | Eastern Whipbird | - Tam O' Shanter St. Park, Qld |
| (L) 129. | Dusky Honeyeater | " |
| (L) 130. | Leewin's Honeyeater | " " |
| (L) 131 | Barred Cuckoo Shrike | " " |
| (L) 132 | Chowchilla | " " |
| (L) 133 | Wompoo Pigeon | " " |
| 134. | Brush-Turkey | " " |
| (L) 135 | Large-billed Scrubwren | " " |

# Australian Birds

136. Common Koel — Tam o' Shanter St. Park, Qld
(L) 137. Brown Shrike-Thrush — " "
(L) 138. Grey Whistler — " "
139. Rufous Fantail — " "
(L) 140. Superb Fruit-Dove — " "
(L) 141. Metallic Starling — Narrogin Beach, Qld
142. Forest Kingfisher — " " "
(L) 143. Orange-footed Scrub-Fowl — Mission Beach
144 Rainbow Lorikeet — " "
145. Brown Booby — Dog Is. 25 km E. Mission B.
146 Brown Cuckoo-Dove — Tam o'Shanter
(L) 147. Victoria's Rifle-bird — " "
148. Square-tailed Kite — Cairns - Mission Beach
149. Sulfur Crested Cockatoo — Palmerston N.P.
150. Pied Currawong — Atherton Tablelands
(L) 151. Plumed Whistling-Duck — L. Tinnaroo
(L) 154. Cotton Pygmy-Goose — "
153. Purple Swamp-Hen — "
154 Comm. Moorhen — "
155. Little Black Cormorant — "
156. Austr. Reed-Warbler — "
157. White-headed Pigeon — Palmerston N.P.
158. White-br. Sea-Eagle — S. of Cairns
159. Red-whiskered Bulbul — Sydney, NSW

# To Do before leaving Midland

Box up Supplies to be left here
Mail Papers, books, etc. home
Change more Australian $$
Laundry
Haircut
Key from DAS
[redacted] Stop by Midland Car Hire
Report, Notes re. bird locations to Graham Arnold
✓ Phone Reservations - Queensland sites
✓ Car Reservation - Cairns
Pay CSIRO phone bill
Talk w. Ian Rowley + Berry re. Brown's project
Gifts - seeds for Pamela, books, cassettes.
Mail ms to Dan Petit express mail